FBIS DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 100 *21 May 1980*

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Industry Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia 18 May C 1
Report on Return Home C 1

KUWAIT

Oil Prices Raised by $2 as of 1 May C 1
Maintaining of Production Level C 1
AL-WATAN Hits 'U.S. Occupation' of Egypt [13 May] C 2

OMAN

Philip Habib Arrives in Muscat 20 May C 2
Sultan Interviewed on Military Agreement With U.S. C 3
[Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER 10 May]

QATAR

AR-RAYAH Criticizes European Stand on Iran C 4

SAUDI ARABIA

Agreement Signed With France on Naval Contracts C 5
Ministers' Remarks on Talks [AR-RIYAD 11 May] C 5

UAE

Oil Prices Increased by $2, Effective 1 May C 6
Prime Minister Receives Message From PLO's 'Arafat C 6
Afar Liberation Front Leader Arrives, Makes Statement C 6

PDRY

'Ali Nasir Muhammad To Visit Moscow in Late May C 7
Chairman Interviewed on 'Isma'il, Regional Policy Issues C 7
[Kuwait AS-SIYASAH 18 May]
Chairman Presents Award to YSP President Isma'il C 10
Chairman Denounces U.S. Threats, Oman U.S. Facilities C 11
[Kuwait AL-WATAN 14 May]

YAR

Presidential Adviser Leaves for PDRY 19 May C 11

EGYPT

Mubarak To Deliver As-Sadat Message to Carter D 1
OCTOBER on Settlements Policy, Ghali, As-Sadat Letters D 1
'Ali Receives Begin Reply, Cites Conditions for Talks D 1
Jerusalem TV Interviews Ghali on Autonomy Talks D 2
Opposition Leader Criticizes Israeli Intransigence D 4
As-Sadat on 'Death of Princess' Film, Sectarian Strife D 4
Awqaf Minister Meets With Somali Official D 5
As-Sadat Congratulates Toure on Assassination Escape D 5

As-Sadat To Deliver Speech on Africa Day 25 May D 6
Address to Jurists 29 May D 6
As-Sadat To Tour Upper Egypt Governorates D 6
As-Sadat Decree Forms Three Ministerial Committees D 6

IRAQ

Crude Oil Price Increased by $2 per Barrel, Effective 1 May E 1
Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Africa E 1

SYRIA

Al-Kasm Comments on Relations With U.S., USSR, Iraq [Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM 17 May] H 1
Khaddam Comments on Syrian Foreign Policy [TISHRIN 17 May] H 3
Al-Asad Receives Jordanian Information Minister H 12

ISRAEL

More on Begin Reply to As-Sadat on Autonomy Talks N 1
Jerusalem 'Sources' Comment ['AL HAMISHMAR 20 May] N 1
Columnist on As-Sadat-Begin Exchange [MA'ARIV 20 May] N 2
Foreign Minister Shamir Receives Egyptian Ambassador [DAVAR 20 May] N 3
Government Upset by ANERA Contacts With Jordan Office, PLO N 4
HA'ARETZ Comments on European Initiative, Carter's Reaction [20 May] N 4
U.S. Team Reports Israel, Egypt Violate Sinai Agreement [MA'ARIV 20 May] N 5
Begin Reported To Be Against Inviting Reagan [MA'ARIV 20 May] N 6
Begin Confers With Head of Israeli Olympic Committee N 6
U.S. Support Pledged N 6

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Ahidjo Addresses Nation on National Anniversary S 1

CHAD

Ndjamena Fighting Continues; Outbreak of Epidemics Feared S 3

ZAIRE

Mobutu Discusses Student Unrest, Role of Students S 4

BRIEFS

Franco-Congolese Cooperation; Zaire's Illegal Diamond Mining S 5

WEST AFRICA

GUINEA

Reaction to Plot Against Sekou Toure Continues T 1

LIBERIA

Foreign Minister Matthews Addresses Diplomats T 2
'Undisciplined' Students To Face Strong Action T 2

TOGO

Foreign Minister Discusses ECOWAS Defense Pact Proposals T 3

BAHRAIN

INDUSTRY MINISTER LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA 18 MAY

JN182058 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 May 80

[Text] Manama, 18 May--Bahraini Development and Industry Minister Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi left Manama today on a short visit to Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to the GULF NEWS AGENCY before his departure, Ash-Shirawi said that during his visit to Saudi Arabia, he will meet with Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani to exchange views in order to reach the means which will ensure Bahrain's sovereignty over the oil industry and equality like the other Arab states which have taken possession of the foreign oil companies operating on their lands.

The Bahraini minister explained that the Bahraini Government will soon have 60 percent of the Caltex refinery. He added that because Bahrain has a small percentage of crude oil, it must acquire this vital material. He said that Saudi Arabia has evinced its complete readiness to supply Bahrain with its oil requirements and support for the Bahraini oil policy.

Ash-Shirawi praised the existing relations between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. He said: We have strong relations with Saudi Arabia for 40 years in relation to oil, gas and energy.

The Bahraini minister of development and industry is accompanied by the ministry's assistant under secretary for oil affairs in Bahrain.

Report on Return Home

JN191156 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 May 80

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 May--Bahraini Development and Industry Minister Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi returned here from Saudi Arabia at dawn today after a visit of several hours. During the visit the Bahraini minister held talks with the Saudi petroleum minister on bilateral relations and cooperation in the field of oil industries.

KUWAIT

OIL PRICES RAISED BY $2 AS OF 1 MAY

JN202056 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2050 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Kuwait, 20 May--Kuwait has decided to raise the official price of its oil by $2 a barrel. In a statement to the Kuwaiti radio today, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah said that this increase, which comes into effect as of 1 May, is intended to narrow the gap between the price of Kuwaiti oil and that of oil from Africa and the North Sea.

Maintaining of Production Level

LD191202 Kuwait KUNA in English 1043 GMT 19 May 80

[Excerpt] Kuwait, May 19 (KUNA)--Kuwait is not planning any increase in oil production, Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper Monday.

Production will remain at the current average of 1.5 million barrels a day and we do not have any undeclared production, the minister said.

Al-Khalifa said Kuwait maintains a declared oil price and our oil policy is based on the major interest of Kuwait. Kuwait respects its international obligations and concluded contracts. The oil price is formulated in line with the international market, commitments to OPEC and traditional clients, the minister said.

AL-WATAN HITS 'U.S. OCCUPATION' OF EGYPT

LD191015 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 13 May 80 p 12

['Izz ad-Din at-Tantawi's "Arab Horizons" column: "What Has Come Over Great Egypt?"]

[Excerpts] The British newspaper THE OBSERVER reported on 11 May 1980 that U.S. President Jimmy Carter has endorsed a plan by the Pentagon to turn Egypt into a springboard for the deployment of 50,000 American soldiers in the area of the Middle East.

This plainly means that the 30,000 British soldiers, who had occupied the Suez Canal area until 1955 and for whose evacuation from Egypt the valiant Egyptian people struggled incessantly for 70 years, will return, or rather they have actually returned--but in American uniforms, and their number has increased to 50,000--not as a result of triumphing over the Egyptian will, as the British tried to do in the 1956 aggression, but because of the surrender of the man who announced the eruption of the 23 July revolution.

What has come over great Egypt, the mother of the world and the bastion of the Arab struggle and the biggest sisterly country on whose good land live 25 percent of the Arab nation? What has befallen God's land so that it may become a center for imperialism and a passage for the imperialist forces to colonize its Arab sisters?

When Carter endorsed a plan to occupy Egypt, did the Egyptian people approve of this plan, even through the People's Assembly whose members were selected by Maj Gen Nabawi Isma'il?

Anwar as-Sadat was not satisfied by opening Egypt's doors to American capitalism to subject the Egyptian economy to its exploitation and imperialism; he is now abandoning the land of Egypt to American occupation to turn it into a base to humiliate the Egyptian people and commit aggression against the Arab nation.

OMAN

PHILIP HABIB ARRIVES IN MUSCAT 20 MAY

JN201820 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1810 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Muscat, 20 May--U.S. State Department special representative Philip Habib arrived in Muscat this evening on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit, Habib will hold talks with Omani officials on the latest developments in the Middle East and on issues of mutual interest.

Habib was welcomed on arrival by Omani Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah.

SULTAN INTERVIEWED ON MILITARY AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

LD200853 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 10 May 80 p 7

[Ake Ringberg interview with Sultan Qabus of Oman: "Military Agreement with the United States"]

[Excerpts] Salalah, 9 May--Sultan Qabus said that he preferred to call the new agreement with the United States a friendly understanding rather than a formal agreement.

"We are friends, Oman and the United States," he said. "We need each other. That is why it is important that we sit down and talk to each other about our problems."

This is clearly what has recently been done in earnest, since the sultan revealed that the agreement--or "understanding"--involves hundreds of millions of dollars.

This is the first time that a figure has been mentioned in this connection, but the sultan did not know the exact sum--yet.

Among the most important elements in the agreement is a $50-million credit to buy U.S. arms. The sultan did not say what sort of weapons were covered, but in other conversations I have had with, among others, British military advisers in the sultan's army it has been clear that antitank weapons, air defense missiles and more patrol boats for Oman's 1,700 km coastline are at the top of the shopping list. During the swift rearmament of the Omani Armed Forces in recent years Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have contributed to arms buying, and it is reasonable to assume that this support will continue.

During the war against Marxist guerrillas in Oman's Dhofar Province which was finally ended in 1976, defense spending totaled 50 percent of the Omani budget. It fell for a short time, but is now rising again. I asked Sultan Qabus to give his views of Oman's current "geopolitical" situation, immediately after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

"What has happened now, with the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan and its increasingly noticeable presence in Aden and Ethiopia--has come as no surprise to us," he said. "On the contrary, I have been warning the United States and Britain for years and have stressed the seriousness of the whole situation. Today we have the Soviet Union's armed forces in Afghanistan less than 500 km from our borders. And they are expanding their base in Aden and on Socotra Island. They encouraged and supported the rising in Dhofar, which we put down after several years of hard fighting. Is it so remarkable that we are putting our house in order today?

"If Oman were subjected to attack from outside, we could cope with a limited attack, but today we could not cope with a massive attack which could be made with the help of Cubans, for example, and aircraft with Russian pilots. In such a situation we would ask for help from our friends, and our friends know this."

Oman has also tried to take the initiative on a general security pact with members from the coastal states around the Persian Gulf. But Sultan Qabus did not want to go into detail about this arrangement--during the interview he refused to talk about Iran and the revolution there and, since his intended pact was planned with Iran as a strong member (unthinkable today), he let the subject drop.

The sultan did not want to answer questions on various claims regarding the extent of Oman's part in the failed U.S. attempt to rescue the hostages in Tehran. According to some reports American planes or helicopters touched down in Oman on their way to or from Iran, but these reports have been officially denied by Oman.

The sultan, a cultured and likeable man, who talks about his country's role and development in a region marked by the growing risk of conflicts between the superpowers in a low, subdued voice, answered other questions.

Sultan Qabus is intent on retaining the British advisers and officers in the army, which talks a little over 20,000 men. "There is no reason to let Omani officers take over a role for which in all probability they are not yet ready," he said.

But "Omanization" is, however, happening slowly. There are now Omani officers in ever more senior positions in the armed forces, and training abroad results in more native officers every year. But, because of the accidents of economic geography, it looks as if Oman and the West will be closely connected to each other for a considerable time yet. At present there are 180 British officers "on temporary loan" to Oman and a further 490 working under contracts approved by the British Government.

I asked the sultan if he followed advice from his subjects. He assured me that he travels around Oman a lot and talks to the people. But the idea of setting up a formal council, a sort of majlis, has never occurred to him.

"It would," he said with revealing candor, "be a waste of precious time. Why should one sit and drink coffee with people just for the sake of a gesture?"

Qabus has been criticized on this point, and here without doubt lies the weakness of his regime. He sees himself as the sole ruler, and he considers his travels around the country, when he lives for long periods in tents with his friends, a form of "direct democracy."

QATAR

AR-RAYAH CRITICIZES EUROPEAN STAND ON IRAN

JN190927 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 May 80

[Text] Doha, 19 May--The Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH calls on the European states to adopt a positive and just position on the Middle East issue. The paper describes the current European position on the Arab legitimate rights as wrong.

In today's editorial AR-RAYAH criticizes the European states' position which supports the United States against Iran by imposing economic sanctions on Iran. The paper also criticizes the U.S. partiality toward Israel. It says: Instead of punishing others with whom agreement can be reached through quite political dialogue, the European states should have punished Israel, which deserves all kinds of punishments.

The paper says that Europe's abstention from adopting a fair stand on the Arab rights, at a time when it imposes economic sanctions on Iran, reflects the unfair nature of its policy which lacks seriousness in dealing with current world problems.

SAUDI ARABIA

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRANCE ON NAVAL CONTRACTS

LD111152 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 11 May 80

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 11 May, SPA--His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, received French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges this morning in his office. After the meeting, which lasted 90 minutes, his royal highness prince sultan and the French minister signed an agreement according to which France is to supply the Saudi Navy with various equipment and instruments. His royal highness told SPA that the agreement was within the context of cooperation in the field of coastal defense and added that this is an agreement in principle and that there is also a technical agreement which specifies quantities, the nature of equipment, and prices which will be completed in 1 month and will then be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval. His royal highness added that the agreement in principle was approved by the Council of Ministers and concerns coastal defense systems which have made big strides from the technical aspect.

Ministers' Remarks on Talks

LD210843 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 11 May 80 pp 1, 17

[Tal'at Wafa and Sulayman Nasir report: "French Defense Minister Says: We Will Discuss Various Aspects of Cooperation Between Defense Ministries; Amir Sultan: We Will Discuss More Than Just the Mirage 2000"]

[Excerpt] French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges has described his visit to the kingdom as being within the framework of cooperation between the two countries and the ties of deep friendship that link them.

He said: When two friends are looking forward to a common objective, it is natural for them to meet from time to time so that together they can chart the course to this objective. What we are doing now in fact is meeting with His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to discuss with him various aspects of cooperation between the two countries' defense ministries.

Relations between the two countries are excellent. In fact the meeting we will have with His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz aims to explore together the improvements that we can add to the already existing and open field of cooperation between the two countries. As you can see, the visit is between two friends. In fact, this is not my first visit to your wonderful country, as I have already visited it several times before. Today, as I sit next to his highness, I greet him once again, and I will continue discussion with him the fields of open cooperation.

Speaking about the nature of the talks, the minister said that cooperation between France and the Saudi Arabian Kingdom began long ago. There are certain old projects which are in progress and there are new projects which, God willing, will be launched soon. I am here today to discuss these matters as a whole and in detail and not for any specific objective.

His Royal Highness Minister of Defense and Aviation Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said: This, as his excellency said, is a friendly visit and at the same time a working visit to discuss the current cooperation between the two countries in the military field and what we should do in the future in the interest of both countries and peoples.

Asked by AR-RIYAD about the program to develop the Mirage 2000 aircraft, his highness said: I believe that our discussions will deal with more than just the Mirage 2000 aircraft. Our friends in France will not refuse us anything that we might ask from them in the future.

UAE

OIL PRICES INCREASED BY $2, EFFECTIVE 1 MAY

JN201841 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 May--The UAE has decided to increase oil prices by $2 a barrel. Announcing this increase today, UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah stated that this increase will be retroactive to 1 May.

Dr al-'Utaybah added that according to this new increase, the price of one barrel of UAE oil will become $31.56 instead of $29.56. He explained that this increase is in harmony with the increases other OPEC members have decided upon. Dr al-'Utaybah said that oil prices in the UAE and other countries still remain below the prices of oil from South Africa and the North Sea, which exceed $35.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PLO'S 'ARAFAT

JN201018 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 May--UAE Vice President and Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum met here today with PLO Representative in the UAE, Ribhi 'Awad. During the meeting, the PLO representative conveyed to him a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The message deals with UAE support for the PLO and issues of common interest.

AFAR LIBERATION FRONT LEADER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN161058 Doha QNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 May--As-Sultan 'Ali Farah Hanfari, leader of the Afar Liberation Front, arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a visit of several days to the UAE, as part of his tour of several of the region's states. As-Sultan 'Ali Farah Hanfari will acquaint the region's officials with the latest developments in the issue of the Afar Province in particular and with the African Horn situation generally, within the framework of preparing a strategic political, military and information plan to liberate the Province of Afar, which is known as the Afar triangle, from the Ethiopian Government's occupation and to confront the war of liquidation being waged by the military government in Addis Ababa against the Afar people.

In a statement upon his arrival, the Afar leader affirmed that the front plans to continue the war of liberation against the Ethiopian occupation until every inch of their occupied territories is liberated and the enemy recognizes the Afar people's right to determine their fate. The Afar leader said: Our plan for the coming stage is to explain the Afar issue in great depth to the Arab and Islamic states and to raise it in all the coming conferences, in order to gain more moral, military and financial support. The Afar leader stated that the Afar people, who number 3 million, are an Arab Muslim people who are currently waging a vicious unequal war against an enemy that is supported by the Soviet Union. The Afar leader said that the Afar revolution is coordinating and cooperating with the Eritrean revolution, as the two revolutions proceed from a common base. The Afar leader called on the Arab and Islamic states to give more financial and military support in order to bolster the needs of the armed revolutionary struggle that the Afar people are waging.

It is noteworthy that the Afar Province is bordered by Djibouti to the east, the Islamic regions of Ethiopia to the west, the Somalia region to the south and Eritrea to the north.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD TO VISIT MOSCOW IN LATE MAY

LD201522 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 May 80 EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, will pay an official and friendly visit to the USSR at the end of this month at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Soviet Council of Ministers. The visit comes in the context of developing and promoting relations between the two friendly parties and countries on the basis of joint cooperation at all levels and the exchange of views on matters of common interest.

CHAIRMAN INTERVIEWED ON 'ISMA'IL, REGIONAL POLICY ISSUES

LD201519 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 18 May 80 p 17

[Interview given to Marwan Hazin by PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in Aden--date not given]

[Excerpt] Aden--[Question] Mr President. Why was the statement issued on the Central Committee meeting devoid of any reference to 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il's resignation, despite the fact that it was the most important result of the meeting?

[Answer] It is true that the Central Committee statement did not refer to the resignation, but this is justified by two facts: First, the Central Committee announced its acceptance of Brother 'Abd al-Fattah's resignation at the start of its session and, second, the resignation was not more important than the other issues which the Central Committee discussed at its recent session. During that session, we had issues before us which were much more important than the question of the resignation. We had the economic issue, which required three successive meetings and more in view of its importance in determining the country's future development and the solving the basic questions facing our party and government.

[Question] Mr President, is there any intention to reshuffle the cabinet following the recent important developments and, in the event of a reshuffle, what would its features be?

[Answer] There is nothing to justify a cabinet reshuffle, because what happened was not so important as to require it. We have a party, and our government implements the party's program and decisions.

[Question] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il's resignation was accompanied by some changes in the party leadership, including the return of Muhammad Salih Muti's and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali to the forefront. How do you explain this? Is this regarded as tipping the scales from one side to the other?

[Answer] This is how certain circles outside the republic have interpreted it, but the fact which public opinion in the country realizes is that Muhammad Salih Muti' and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali are members of the Politburo who were earlier elected Central Committee secretaries. They are still discharging their party duties as defined by the Central Committee in August 1979, like the other Central Committee secretaries.

[Question] Everything related to 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il's resignation has been explained. It was said that his resignation was for health reasons. [paragraph continues]

Everything that was reiterated about conflicts in the party and state in PDRY has been denied, but one thing to which we have found no answer or denial is what have been described as the personal ambitions of Defense Minister 'Ali 'Antar and his role as the principal personality behind Isma'il's resignation. What is your opinion?

[Answer] One of the most deep-rooted traditions in the party's internal life is the principle of collective leadership. Anyone who imagines that personal ambitions can affect our party's life and policy is mistaken. Brother 'Ali 'Antar has no personal ambitions, and there are no disputes between him and Brother 'Abd al-Fattah which might suggest that he was behind Brother 'Abd al-Fattah's resignation.

[Question] It is generally agreed that the policies of 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad are identical, but many hasten to say that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is more flexible and open to understanding.

[Answer] Our policy is the policy of the Yemen Socialist Party. This is fact. But certain circles try to give what has happened various interpretations. This does not interest us. All we wish to say is that we desire, as we desired in the past, all factors of stability and security to prevail in the area so that we can devote our efforts to tackling the problems we have inherited and carrying out our responsibilities for the development and advancement of our people.

[Question] What are the repercussions of the abortive American operation in Iran, and, in your opinion, what forces are threatening the security of the Gulf?

[Answer] We did not expect a big power like the United States to resort to piratical methods like those experienced in the past in the international arena. However, we were aware that the hysteria which beset imperialism as a result of what happened in Iran, Afghanistan and Ethiopia would make it commit fooolish acts such as the act it committed against the people of Iran. In any case, it is not sufficient to say that the operation failed completely and unmasked the ugly face of imperialism; it must be taken into consideration that America's attack on an independent sovereign state is a serious precedent which affects the entire international community and is a violation of all international norms and laws. Relations with the United States must be reconsidered and a firm stand adopted against those who tried and are trying to grant the United States land in their countries to establish U.S. aggressive bases. By its aggressive act against Iran, the United States has proved that it is the party threatening the security and independence of the Arab Gulf peoples--a matter which demands the adoption of clear attitudes to the United States and serious thinking to get rid of all forms of American economic presence and political influence in this area, so that the area's peoples will not be at the mercy of the American threats.

[Question] What is the extent of coordination between the PDRY and the Iranian Republic in confronting the American threat to the Gulf?

[Answer] We have made contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our bilateral relations are still new. The present circumstances actually require continuous efforts to develop our bilateral relations so that we can jointly contribute to confronting the aggressive American threats, because our common fate is linked with the fate of all this area's peoples.

[Question] Do you believe that the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, in its present structure and as a result of the outcome of its recent meeting, can actually confront and foil Camp David?

[Answer] The role of the Steadfastness Front has played in unmasking the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat plot against our Arab people's national cause cannot be denied. It is enough that the Steadfastness Front has the credit for confronting this plot and for making others denounce an agreement undertaken by the Steadfastness Front alone but requires the mobilization of all resources and capabilities. [sentence as published, Kuwait AL-WATAN of 18 May 1980, page 14, renders this sentence as follows: It is enough that the Steadfastness Front has the credit for confronting this plot and making others denounce the Camp David agreement. However, the question of foiling the Camp David agreements and plans is an enormous task which cannot be undertaken by the Steadfastness Front alone; it requires the mobilization of all Arab resources and capabilities]

[Question] What are the bases required for the restoration of relations with the Sultanate of Oman?

[Answer] The restoration of relations with Oman require that the sultanate return to the Arab ranks, that it breaks away from the Camp David circle, that it commit itself to the Baghdad and Tunis summit resolutions and that it not permit the Americans to use Omani territories as aggressive military bases to threaten the security and stability of the area's peoples.

[Question] What are the most important subjects which can be discussed with Saudi Arabia during the visit so often postponed? When will the visit take place?

[Answer] There are several issues to be discussed with our brothers in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom during the forthcoming visit, the date for which will be fixed jointly in due course. The most important issues to be discussed will be the Arab situation, the importance of implementing the Baghdad and Tunis summit resolutions, and how to confront the dangers of the American military facilities in the Sultanate of Oman. We will also discuss bilateral relations between our two countries.

[Question] Mr President, the Yemeni leadership has long emphasized its desire to establish normal relations with the Saudi Arabian Kingdom on the basis of good-neighborliness. What does this mean?

[Answer] We are not asking any price from Saudi Arabia. All that we are interested in is the establishment of equal relations between the two fraternal countries, with emphasis on noninterference in internal affairs and on doing away with the rich state-poor state theory, or the theory whereby one state makes decisions and another implements them, because such things are contrary to equal relations. We want to cooperate on a PDRY-Saudi basis. This attitude is not new; we have been declaring it since 1976 and we continue to insist on it. We are prepared to develop our relations with Saudi Arabia on these bases without any other conditions.

[Question] Mr President, since the success of the revolution, the PDRY has persistently expressed its desire to achieve unity with the northern sector. What are the guarantees that this unity will work?

[Answer] As you are aware, the Cairo agreement which I personally signed with Muhsin al-'Ayni in 1972 and the bilateral meetings and contacts that followed, including what has come to be known as the Tripoli statement and the Kuwait agreement, and my visits to San'a' and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani's visit to Aden--all this clearly signifies the bases and guarantees for unity. But our enemies do not want Yemen's unity to be achieved. [paragraph continues]

For our part, we are struggling to deepen the contacts with our brothers in the northern sector, because we believe that this is necessary and important for the attainment of complete unity.

[Question] Mr President. My last question is: When will the 14 October medal be conferred on 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il?

[Answer] Very soon.

[Question] When exactly? Because the Western information media continue to report that 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il is in detention.

[Answer] We hope that you have seen the reality of the situation in our country during your stay here. As you can see, there is no basis for the Western news agency reports about Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. In any case, we pay no attention to news agency reports. Our confidence in our party and people is profound, and our leadership is performing its task in accordance with the decisions of the party, which is the leader and guide. The Yemeni people are aware of these reports, and they will not be deceived by allegations which are reiterated abroad but leave no trace in the country, as you have seen. The fact is that those who are spreading such propaganda are deceiving not our people but themselves. As far as Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il is concerned, he is a brother struggler, a friend, traveling companion and colleague of 18 years' standing. Our relations with each other are attested by the depth of our people's struggle. He is living honorably in his house. I spoke with him yesterday (Tuesday 13 May 1980). I visit him frequently, although 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il is ill at present, he will continue to play his leading role. Our party Central Committee has made a decision to appoint him party leader. As to when the medal will be conferred, this will take place this week, after Saturday, 17 May 1980. If you wish to stay here to attend the presentation ceremony, you are welcome, and you will then see him personally; he and I will be delivering speeches.

CHAIRMAN PRESENTS AWARD TO YSP PRESIDENT ISMA'IL

ID201536 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 May 80 EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has conferred upon Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, president of the YSP, the order of the 14 October Revolution. The award ceremony was attended by the brother members of the Politburo, members of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council, a number of Central Committee officials, ministers, and Lt Col Husayn ad-Dufi, adviser to the president of the northern part of the homeland on unity affairs.

Brothers 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il delivered speeches stressing the party's cohesiveness and strength thanks to its firm principles. They said that the YSP will relentlessly continue its [words indistinct] to promote the struggle to strengthen our socialist organization under all conditions. They affirmed their devotion to the great tasks during this difficult stage of development and the struggle to preserve the gains and achievements of our glorious revolution and to spare no efforts to assure success and continued progress toward the achievement of the goals of the Yemeni revolution.

CHAIRMAN DENOUNCES U.S. THREATS, OMAN U.S. FACILITIES

LD210925 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 May 80 pp 1, 11

[Ibrahim al-Barghuti report: "'Ali Nasir: Oman Offers Its Territories to Americans; No Future for Camp David Policy"]

[Text] Aden--South Yemen President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has denounced Washington's threats to the Arab Gulf countries and the U.S. naval buildup in the area.

In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN he described the formation of U.S. forces for the military invasion of the Gulf as an extremely impudent action, based on the U.S. failure to set up aggressive alliance in which to draw some countries in the area.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad strongly attacked the Oman Government, saying that it is still toeing the Camp David line and giving facilities and bases to U.S. forces--something which exacerbates tension in the area. Referring to the failure of mediation between Oman and Aden, the South Yemen president blamed the sultanate for this failure.

He described the abortive U.S. operation against Iran as an ugly crime reflecting the imperialists' impudence and disregard of people's sovereignty.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his satisfaction with what has been achieved so far with regard to unity between the two parts of Yemen, particularly in relation to the recent economic agreements between the two countries.

He praised the outcome of the fourth Steadfastness and Confrontation Front conference and said that Aden is on the side of the Syrian people's struggle against Israeli occupation. He reaffirmed his country's firm and total support for the PLO, the Lebanese nationalist movement and the POLISARIO in the Western Sahara.

Referring to Egypt, he said that he is certain that the Egyptian people will triumph under national front leadership. He added: "There is no future for Camp David policy and it is doomed to failure. There is no solution without total and unconditional Israel withdrawing from the occupied territories."

'Ali Nasir Muhammad denounced the recent deportation of three Palestinian leaders from the West Bank. He reaffirmed his country's solidarity with Iran, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Cuba, and Zimbabwe. The South Yemen president lauded Soviet aid to his country.

YAR

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER LEAVES FOR PDRY 19 MAY

JN191349 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 May 80

[Text] Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i, presidential adviser for unity affairs, left San'a' for Aden this morning.

In a statement to SABA', Ad-Daf'i said he is carrying a verbal message from Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, to his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. Ad-Daf'i added that he and officials in the southern part of the homeland will discuss issues of common interest to the two parts, particularly in economic coordination in accordance with the Aden-San'a' statement. Ad-Daf'i stated that he and officials in the southern part of the homeland will also discuss current developments in the Arab region and international events.

MUBARAK TO DELIVER AS-SADAT MESSAGE TO CARTER

NC210624 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 21 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 21 May--The newspaper AL-AKHBAR today reports that Vice President Husni Mubarak will arrive in Washington Thursday night on an urgent mission. Vice President Mubarak will be carrying a message from President Anwar as-Sadat to U.S. President Jimmy Carter dealing with the autonomy discussions between Egypt and Israel. Quoting White House sources, the paper says that President Carter is expected to receive Husni Mubarak Friday morning. During his visit to Washington, Vice President Mubarak will meet with Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and Defense Secretary Harold Brown before returning to Cairo Sunday.

OCTOBER ON SETTLEMENTS POLICY, GHALI, AS-SADAT LETTERS

NC170904 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0808 GMT 17 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 17 May--A senior Egyptian diplomatic source has declared that Egypt has definite information about an Israeli plan providing for the construction of two Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories every 10 days. The source has also declared that this plan is actually being implemented and that there are already 143 settlements. In a statement to be published in OCTOBER magazine tomorrow, the diplomatic source added that Egypt was extremely worried about the dangerous situation resulting from the Israeli measures in the West Bank and Gaza.

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali is preparing an urgent letter for Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that will be sent within days. This will be the second letter from Dr Ghali to Shamir, and it is a reply to and comment on Shamir's answer to the first letter. The letter gives a detailed explanation of Egypt's position on the Israeli measures in the West Bank and Gaza and their effect on the continuation of the peace march toward a comprehensive solution.

Beginning today and lasting all this week, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will hold continuous meetings to study the situation, await the U.S. reaction to the Egyptian position and discuss the various alternatives for continuing the peace march. OCTOBER magazine further said that although Egypt refused to negotiate under the illegitimate Israeli measures in the West Bank and Gaza, it nevertheless insisted on peacefully reaching a comprehensive solution. Egypt will continue with the measures of normalization and peace, and the world must determine Israel's true intentions toward a comprehensive peace.

Meanwhile, Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Eliyahu Ben-Elisar will receive a letter from President Anwar as-Sadat to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin containing an explanation of the difficulties facing the negotiations, Egypt's rejection of any preconditions, a request to the Israeli Government to revise its position in light of the changes in the world, and an insistence that peace is imperative.

OCTOBER says that Begin will not reply to the letter before 1900 tonight because Saturday is a holy day in Israel.

'ALI RECEIVES BEGIN REPLY, CITES CONDITIONS FOR TALKS

NC201546 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali announced that this afternoon the Israeli ambassador in Cairo handed him the Israeli prime minister's reply to President Anwar as-Sadat's letter. He said that nothing could be said about the reply before it was submitted to the president.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt suspended the autonomy negotiations for good reasons, which were and still are based on Egypt's position: rejection of any preconditions for the negotiations and adherence to Egypt's principle announced by President Anwar as-Sadat yesterday during the cabinet meeting.

He said that differences of views could be ironed out through negotiations, that contacts were underway with the United States, and that Egypt was awaiting President Carter's official reply to President as-Sadat's message. He added that the date for resuming the autonomy negotiations would be determined in light of the U.S. reply and in light of the outcome of National Democratic Party leader Dr Mustafa Khalil's talks with the chief U.S. delegate to the autonomy negotiations.

JERUSALEM TV INTERVIEWS GHALI ON AUTONOMY TALKS

TA161948 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 16 May 80

[Interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali by Israeli television Cairo correspondent Ehud Ya'ari, in English--time and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] The main purpose of the present Egyptian move is to get the Americans more involved in the process. [Answer] Certainly, yes. The Americans are full partner in these negotiations, and we are hoping that the Americans could play a role, a more constructive role, so we could overcome the different obstacles.

[Question] Would you expect the Americans to present some new ideas, probably in writing? [Answer] We are ready to accept any idea, any positive idea, any constructive idea from the Israeli side or from the American side.

[Question] You are avoiding using the term suspension of the talks. Why so? [Answer] Because our intention is to find a way to continue to negotiate. We believe that only through negotiations and in the framework of Camp David can we find a solution.

[Question] Could you indicate a possible way for resumption of these negotiations on full autonomy? [Answer] I believe that this ought to be discussed by the three parties concerned.

[Question] In what form? [Answer] In form of this week's direct contact. In form of exchange of letters. There are so many forms.

[Question] Would you initiate some direct discussions with the Israelis now concerning how to resume the talks and on what basis? [Answer] In principle we have no objection to any kind of approach. What is important is that we believe that we must find a solution to the Palestinian question, and to find a solution to the Palestinian question we must have a more positive atmosphere. We cannot accept every few days new faits accomplis: construction of new settlements, new declaration, new law, new proclamation of different laws.

[Question] Dr Ghali, everything which is known now was known before the President's speech before the parliament on Wednesday. [Answer] No, not the decision to move a law concerning East Jerusalem to your commission, the legal commission, I believe.

[Ya'ari] Of the Parliament. [Answer] Of the Parliament [the Knesset constitution, law and justice committee]

[Question] Would you say this is the only reason for...[Ghali--interrupting] Certainly this is not the only reason. You have to put all this together. When you find a general perception that there is a negative attitude on the part of the Israeli Government which does not help us to overcome the difficulties.

[Question] Are you setting any preconditions for resumption of the talks? [Answer] We are setting no preconditions.

[Question] Just a show of good will on the Israeli side? [Answer] I believe that good will is essential.

[Question] What would constitute, in your view, a demonstration of good will by the Israelis which will enable Egypt to resume negotiations? [Answer] Certainly a moratorium on the construction of new settlements will be a very important step which will help everybody, the Palestinians. After all, what is the purpose of these negotiations? It is to obtain the participation of the Palestinians in the elections. What will be the use of signing such a treaty if the Palestinians will refuse. I am certain that the moratorium on the construction of new settlements will be a positive step and will help us to overcome the difficulties.

[Question] So there are new ground rules for the negotiations, because so far Egypt was not insisting on having this moratorium as a sort of a condition for negotiating with... [Ghali--interrupting] I didn't say it is a condition. I said this will help our negotiations. We have asked this during the last 12 months, if you want to know.

[Question] One more question Dr Ghali: You have contacted Ambassador Atherton yesterday in order to inform him of your decision, and you did not contact the Israeli ambassador here in Cairo. In the press conference you have said that he could have listened to the Egyptian announcement on the radio. But why is it that you didn't contact the Israeli and didn't notify him must like you did with the American? [Answer] First of all, mere contact with the American ambassador was not a notification. It was just a discussion. Secondly, we just contacted our ambassador in Tel Aviv, and we asked him to convey this message to the Israeli Government.

[Question] So there was no discriminatory attitude or intention? [Answer] Certainly no discriminatory attitude.

[Ya'ari] But you did not think before of calling Mr Ben-Elisar, too, together with Ambassador Atherton? [Answer] No, there is a question of logistics. I have more easy communication with Roy Atherton than with Bel-Elisar, even on number phone communication.

[Question] Is a summit now to be expected? [Answer] I don't know.

[Question] There were rumors, partly coming from Cairo, that Egypt would like to have a summit. Do you think there is any political basis for calling or convening a summit now? [Answer] Again I will say that any initiative that could help to overcome the difficulties which will give hope to the Palestinian people is something which will be supported by Egypt.

[Question] So you don't rule out a possibility of a summit? [Answer] We don't rule out anything. We are in favor of continuing the negotiations but in a more positive atmosphere and to overcome [difficulties]. We have spent 12 months trying to overcome the difficulties.

[Question] Dr Ghali, in principle, is Egypt ready, prepared to extend the talks on autonomy beyond 26 May?
[Answer] This again has to be discussed.

[Question] But you wouldn't indicate in which manner, in what form, on what level, how?
[Answer] No. This has to be discussed, and we have different forms of discussion, and we are ready to accept any kind of form of discussion.

[Question] Are you still optimistic that the talks will resume and we will have an agreement?
[Answer] I am an optimist by definition.

[Ya'ari] Thank you very much.

OPPOSITION LEADER CRITICIZES ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE

NC161451 Cairo MENA in English 1425 GMT 16 May 80

[Text] Cairo, May 16 (MENA)--Leader of the opposition Socialist Labour Party Ibrahim Shukri addressing a party meeting today on the occasion of Palestine Day affirmed that the party is working for consolidating the bases of democracy in Egypt. Shukri hoped that President as-Sadat would succeed in the forthcoming steps towards the achievement of democracy and prosperity for the Egyptian people.

On the autonomy talks he criticized Israel's intransigent attitude which impeded the peace process.

AS-SADAT ON 'DEATH OF PRINCESS' FILM, SECTARIAN STRIFE

NC171050 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 17 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 18 May--In his weekly article to be published by OCTOBER magazine tomorrow, the magazine's chief editor, Anis Mansur, says that President Anwar as-Sadat commented on the film "Death of a Princess," which he saw last week, saying: I felt disgusted; this film is a violation of freedom and an attack on the sanctity of family life. I wish Egyptian artists had not participated in this disgraceful and shameful work. Undoubtedly, this is a slip by them.

Referring to King Khalid of Saudi Arabia and Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the father of the princess, President as-Sadat said: If, despite this, Khalid and "Abdallah believe that I produced the film, then I have nothing to tell them other than that I am a man who knows his religion, knows what is shameful and tries to avoid it and demand that the sons of my homeland, the Egyptians, respect the freedom of others and draw a line between what is shameful and what is honorable. Because of my hatred of what is shameful, I even went to the extent of asking the people to codify the protection of Egyptian society from shame.

The OCTOBER chief editor explains that Egypt, because of these ethical considerations and because it does not want to involve itself in Saudi Arabia's domestic conditions, does not want to be a party to what goes on in Saudi Arabia and does not want any party to involve itself in Egypt's affairs.

It is known that Egypt has banned the exhibition of this film, which was strongly attacked by Egyptian newspapers and magazine, which described it as a venemous attack on Islam. An Egyptian artist has filed suit against the British producer of the film, accusing the producer of having agreed with him to play a role in a police film but was surprised to find out that his role was exploited when he appeared in the "Death of a Princess".

In his article entitled "What President As-Sadat Did Not Say in His Speech at the People's Assembly," the OCTOBER chief editor says: Because of President as-Sadat's strong desire to speak frankly to the Egyptian people and warn them, most of the speech was devoted to sectarian sedition. The president resolved an issue that had filled hearts with anger over any attempt to shatter Egypt, which lives in tolerance in its religion and its policy with itself and with others.

The magazine's chief editor says that President as-Sadat comments on this issue, saying: It is not an expression of religious freedom, stipulated in Article 46 of the Constitution, when some fanatics periodically stir sectarian seditions--that is, when an affliction hits Egypt or I travel abroad to solve a national or pan-Arab crisis. It is not an expression of religious freedom that there be a "Coptic Vatican" in Egypt that has ambassadors abroad, that rules a Christian state hostile to an Islamic state and that attempts to turn Egypt into another Lebanon. If anyone wants this for Egypt out of ignorance or bad intention, then let him see what has befallen Lebanon through the weapons if its own sons.

President as-Sadat adds: It is not an expression of religious freedom when mosque preachers pretend courage by attacking the leaders and rulers and cursing them for no reason other than to receive the applause of the common people. It is not an expression of religious freedom for this race in the illegal building of mosques and churches to continue without sound planning merely for the sake of demonstrations, instigations or provocations. The president goes on: This does not mean that the Muslim majority should be equated with the Christians. I am Muslim ruler of a Muslim state. All I want is to be frank and to chastise, forewarned is forearmed, and vice versa.

OCTOBER magazine comments on the recent denial by Lebanese Phalangist leaders that some Egyptian Copts had fought in their ranks, saying: What hurts is for us to say that this denial is untrue. Through its division, its taking sides and its fights, Lebanon has managed to carry its infection to weak and crazy people in Egypt, who carried arms against Lebanon and participated in its destruction after having failed to destroy Egypt.

The magazine points out that Abu Iyad is the Palestinian personality to whom President as-Sadat referred in his speech last Wednesday. The magazine says that Abu Iyad expressed his readiness to abduct some of the Egyptian Copts fighting with the Christians in Lebanon, but that the president refused this.

AWQAF MINISTER MEETS WITH SOMALI OFFICIAL

NC171446 Cairo MENA in English 1325 GMT 17 May 80

[Text] Cairo, May 17 (MENA)--State Minister for Awqaf Dr Zakariya al-Barri reviewed today with Somali Justice and Religious Affairs Minister Ahmad Shire bilateral relations in the field of Awqaf and religious affairs. During the meeting, they also discussed Somalia's needs of scholarships in the field of Islamic religion and Arabic. The Somali minister arrived here on May 6 for a two-week visit to Egypt.

AS-SADAT CONGRATULATES TOURE ON ASSASSINATION ESCAPE

JN191618 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 May 80

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has sent a cable of congratulations to Guinean President Ahmad Sekou Toure on his escape from the attempt on his life. Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent a similar cable to President Ahmad Sekou Toure on this occasion.

AS-SADAT TO DELIVER SPEECH ON AFRICA DAY 25 MAY

JN141023 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 14 May 80

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will address an important speech to Africa during the big celebration which Egypt will hold on 25 May in the Central Committee Hall in Cairo on the occasion of Africa Day.

Address to Jurists 29 May

NC200657 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 20 May--The newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that President Anwar as-Sadat will deliver a speech on Jurists Day on Thursday, 29 May, which marks the centennial of the law faculty of Cairo University.

AS-SADAT TO TOUR UPPER EGYPT GOVERNORATES

NC200658 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0642 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 20 May--The newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that at the beginning of the coming week President Anwar as-Sadat will begin his tour of upper Egypt governorates, including al-Wadi al-Jadid, Luxor and Naj' Hammadi.

During his tour, President as-Sadat will inspect the reclaimed land in al-Wadi al-Jadid. He will be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Engineer 'Izz ad-Din Hilal and Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi.

AS-SADAT DECREE FORMS THREE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEES

NC 2123 Cairo MENA in English 2040 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Cairo, May 20--(MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat issued today three decrees forming three ministerial committees in the new cabinet. The three committees are for production, economic affairs and services. Each committee is headed by a deputy premier and minister and comprises several ministers of state.

The ministerial committee for production is headed by Ahmad Hilal, deputy premier for production and minister of petroleum. It comprises the ministers of state for agriculture, food security, transport, communications and shipping, irrigation, industry and mineral resources, power, and military production.

The ministerial committee for economic affairs is headed by Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid, deputy premier for economic and financial affairs and minister of planning. It comprises the ministers of state for agriculture, food security, tourism and civil aviation, industry and mineral resources, and supply and home trade, and the governor of the Central Bank of Egypt.

The ministerial committee for services is headed by Nabawi Isma'il, deputy premier and minister of interior. It comprises the ministers of state for education and scientific research, social insurance, housing and construction, land reclamation, labour manpower, health, culture and information, and Awqaf (Moslem religious endowments).

CRUDE OIL PRICE INCREASED BY $2 PER BARREL, EFFECTIVE 1 MAY

JN210908 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 21 May 80

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 21 May--Revolution Command Council member and Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim has declared that the recent price increase for Iraq's oil is compatible with the efforts exerted to unify OPEC oil prices. Iraq increased its oil prices by $2 per barrel as of 1 May.

The oil minister added that the new increase is aimed at narrowing the gap between the high prices of the African and North Sea oil and those of the Arab Gulf states' oil. The minister said that Iraq hopes that all the oil-producing countries will take this matter into consideration and will cooperate to eliminate the multi-level prices, which do not serve OPEC and its vital interests but show OPEC as divided in front of its enemies.

The oil minister explained that Iraq reserves the right to adopt what it deems fit in order to introduce other changes on its oil prices and to safeguard the balance of oil prices. The oil minister added that this slight increase of the Iraqi oil prices will not weigh heavily on the developing countries because Iraq is forging ahead in promoting its aid program to these countries in compliance with the principles of the 17 July revolution and with President Saddam Husayn's instructions and well-known initiatives in this regard.

In conclusion, Tayih 'Abd al-Karim reiterated that Iraq is still committed to its stand of opposing the freezing of oil prices or increasing them by sharp leaps. Iraq supports gradual increases which are commensurate with the increase of commodity prices and inflation. Iraq notes that the sublime solution is to conduct frank and serious dialogue between producers and consumers on the interlinked important issues.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON AFRICA

JN191900 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 19 May 80

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May--Iraq has called for making the celebrations held on the week of solidarity with the colonized peoples in the African Continent a premise from which to proceed in completely destroying the remnants of racism in the African Continent and occupied Palestine.

A Foreign Ministry statement issued on the occasion says that Iraq will continue to offer complete moral and financial support to the African peoples who are still struggling against racism in an effort to gain their complete independence, determine their fate and achieve their aims.

The statement puts a high evaluation on the great and decisive success achieved by the people of Zimbabwe against the racist regime, which is backed by the racist South African regime, the Zionist entity and all the world's imperialist powers.

The statement says that Iraq is accustomed to celebrating such occasions annually and to expressing the backing and support offered by the Iraqi people and government, under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, to the just struggle being waged by the African peoples against the racist regimes in the southern part of the African Continent. The statement adds that Iraq, a member of the committee to liquidate colonialism, is exerting efforts to fight racism in all its forms and to support and back all struggling peoples that are oppressed by racist regimes.

Since 1960 the world has celebrated a week of solidarity with African colonized peoples each 19 May.

AL-KASM COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH U.S., USSR, IRAQ

ID201437 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 May 80 p 17

[Mahbub al-'Abdallah report on press conference given by Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm to a Kuwaiti press delegation in Damascus on 16 May]

[Excerpts] Replying to a question regarding political currents in the Arab arena, the various pro-U.S. or pro-Soviet axis in it, how coordination can be achieved in the Arab homeland in the absence of agreement, the need to distinguish between the roles of the two superpowers in the area and whether there can be Arab solidarity as long as the Arabs disagree on fixing a specified policy, the Syrian prime minister said:

With regard to this question, there is something that I know and another thing which I do not know and have not heard about. It is clear that some people want to form an axis with the United States. I refer to As-Sadat. His axis with the United States and Israel has already been launched, and it began with his visit to Jerusalem. However, I have not heard of an Arab state wanting to form an axis with the Soviet Union. If you mean Syria, it is not so, since Syria does not believe in any axis, it is a nonaligned state which believes in nonalignment. It befriends those who befriend it and it is hostile to those who are hostile to it. Friendship with a state does not mean forming an axis with it. Friendship based on mutual interests does not mean axis.

We are friendly with the Soviet Union but do not form an axis with it, as is in the case between Israel, As-Sadat and the United States. We cooperate with the Soviet Union in order to defend our rights and restore our land, which is something very different. I believe that all the Arabs with the exception of As-Sadat, believe in the policy of not becoming involved in axis. However, I do not know if there is an Arab state that might ostensibly be one thing and secretly another. That is a different matter. But as far as I know, As-Sadat is the only one, while the rest of the Arabs are in the opposite trench, the trench of steadfastness and struggle.

With regard to the question of coordination, I would say that there can never be coordination with As-Sadat; there can be no coordination with anyone who has betrayed his land, be it As-Sadat or those who believe in his policy.

[Question] We know that the Soviet Union adopts a good attitude toward Syria and that there are other Arab countries that cooperate with it. But some foreign news agencies and newspapers believe that what exists between the Soviet Union and Syria is some sort of an axis. While some Arab countries are in alliance with the United States behind the scenes others, like As-Sadat, are openly so. What is your comment?

[Answer] As I have already said, our relations with the Soviet Union are very good; they are based on mutual respect and mutual belief in the justice of our cause. We can only establish good relations with a country that gives us political, military and economic aid and asks for nothing and wants nothing in return. How can we reject such aid? Shall we refuse it? We would be betraying our country to refuse aid from a country that wants nothing from us and unconditionally believes in the justice of our cause.

You must realize, brothers, that Syria can never forsake one iota of its sovereignty or dignity. We reject any conditional aid. We rejected the joint defense pact plan and the Eisenhower doctrine. We refused all that U.S. aid because it was conditional and would have tied us to an alliance with the United States. The Soviet Union gives us unconditional aid. Naturally, the Soviet Union would not accept our becoming a U.S. base. It gives us aid. But is it in our interest to be a base for the Americans? Of course not.

The Soviet Union has accepted our policy of nonalignment, in which we believe. This is our slogan, and not something adapted at the Soviet Union's request.

The course of action is clear: There is an enemy and there is his ally who supports him with billions of dollars and with massive arms. Will the United States ever help us, or can it be with us? Let the United States step back for some moments and let it stop aid, and then we will be able to solve the problem with Israel. Syria alone can do that.

You know and we know that we are blockaded politically and economically and that conspiracies are being hatched, but all that will be of of no avail.

It is strange that we should ask of the Soviet Union what we ought to ask of ourselves. We Arabs can, if we wish, pressure the United States and curb its interference better than the Soviet Union can. While we hesitate, we ask foreigners to do things for us. Why should we ask the Soviet Union to intervene in Palestine the same way it intervened in Czechoslovakia, on its borders, when we ourselves are not intervening to protect ourselves. Why should I ask the Soviet Union to intervene?

It is enough for me that it is giving me arms that I cannot obtain from elsewhere.

[Question] But why, in the 1967 and 1973 wars, did the Soviet Union, despite its friendship with the Arabs, not provide the Arabs with sophisticated weapons similar to those the United States provides to Israel? Why this shortcoming on the part of the Soviet Union?

[Answer] First, we must not forget that relations between the United States and Israel are different from those between us and the Soviet Union. Israel is a U.S. base, while we are not a Soviet base. The Soviet Union can supply us with the arms we need, but it cannot supply us with arms to fight the entire United States. In 1973 we did not fight Israel. Had it not been for the airlift Israel would have been eliminated. While 80 percent of the Israeli Air Force in the 1973 war was bombing Damascus and destroying our cities and factories and hitting at our army, the Egyptian forces were standing at the Suez Canal. They had the military capability to go farther, but he carried out previsely the orders given to him. That was not the Soviet Union's fault either.

U.S. planes flew direct, without stopping in Israel, to rocket our tanks and armor. We were fighting the United States and not Israel.

The Soviet Union naturally benefits from this because there is an international conflict. The Soviet Union benefits from every stand hostile to the United States. If I were able to strike at Washington I would do so too. The Soviet Union will benefit as long as the United States is attacking me.

But when Washington adopts an honorable stand, a stand in the interest of its own people, then I will welcome it; then it will abandon that gang [Israel] and stop attacking me.

When De Gaulle adopted a stand in his country's interest, abandoned Zionism and struck at it, France benefited. We welcomed him and forgot French colonialism. We bear grudges against nobody. We bear no grudge against the United States or the American people. I personally believe that the American people are the victims of White House and Zionist policy. When the White House realizes its own people and country's interest and abandons this Zionist gang, then relations between us will be very good.

Dr al-Kasm then criticized certain Arab countries, without naming them, for their failure to abide by the resolutions of the last two Arab summit meetings with regard to financial and economic sanctions against the Egyptian regime, as a punishment for signing a peace treaty with Israel.

Replying to a question regarding Syrian-Iraq relations, Dr al-Kasm admitted an "estrangement" between the two countries but emphasized that Damascus leaves the door open to Baghdad to improve relations. He said: We will not close the door in the face of any Arab country, and are ready for unity with any country, on the sole condition that the country concerned accepts unity with us. We would take two steps for every step taken by another country, including Iraq.

Dr al-Kasm denied that Iran is the cause of "estrangement" between Syria and Iraq and said: Our relations with Iran were very good before and during the dialog for unity with Iraq and have not changed. So that is not the reason.

Dr al-Kasm denied that there are internal disturbances in Syria and said: You are welcome to visit any city you wish, and you will find that the situation is calm. If an assassination takes place here or there, that is happening throughout the world. He said that many arms have been stockpiled in various places but that this was due to the leniency and negligence of the security organs. But he affirmed that the presence of some misguided elements among the people is no problem. We are certain that the people stand as one bloc, he said.

KHADDAM COMMENTS ON SYRIAN FOREIGN POLICY

JN190923 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 17 May 80 p 3

[Text of interview given by Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Kuwait KUNA and editors-in-chief of the Kuwaiti newspaper in Damascus--date not specified]

[Text] [Question] Syria is facing voluminous challenges on various levels. How do you view the future strategy that could be proposed and what are the conditions necessary to deepen Arab struggle?

[Answer] The situation in the Arab region is complicated due to the imbalance between us and Israel, as a result of the Camp David accords and also as a result of the U.S. change from support of Israel to actual participation in its plots of aggression. This dictates the reestablishment of the balance of power through the introduction of new factors capable of accomplishing this.

A single glance at the Arab homeland map shows the existance of ferocious differences among the Arab countries. You can hardly find two Arab neighboring countries that do not have differences.

All the Arabs speak well about the Palestinian issue. However, there are no practices that correspond with this talk and these slogans and the available resources. On the contrary, these practices are proceeding in another direction.

We in Syria are discussing the new qualitative factor that must be achieved. We will achieve this factor. Our aim in this is to establish a strategic balance between Syria and Israel. We will exert any effort and will carry out any action that will assist us in achieving this balance. We are now looking for a qualitative factor whose image is clear before us. We are proceeding on the right path, a path we believe will introduce radical changes in the existing balances in the area.

We have no option. Our status is different from that prevailing in Mauritania or Morocco or Yemen. Israel is 60 kms from Damascus. This distance is insignificant within the means of modern war. It is unreasonable to leave ourselves under the Israeli umbrella. The current stalemate will place us under this umbrella. It is, therefore, incumbent on us to embark on creating new qualitative factors bound to expand our own umbrella--the Arab umbrella--in order to diminish the Israeli umbrella--to assist us in the next stage to regain the land and rights. This is our concept.

Can the Arab situation introduce new qualitative factors? We see that there is a great gap in Arab understanding of the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Everybody says that Israel is a grave danger, but they practice the reverse of this concept. The U.S. stand is an example. Some of us still consider the United States the savior. How can we believe that the United States is capable of giving the Arabs their rights at a time when we see Carter deciding to support a UN resolution banning Israeli settlements and then retracting the vote the next day? If the U.S. President failed to stand up against the Zionist campaign with regard to voting at the Security Council on the issue of settlements, how can we imagine that the United States is capable of giving and of regaining the Arab rights?

It seems that some of the Arabs cannot see the picture or they confine themselves to a narrow circle where they cannot see the picture in full. There is no U.S. resolution or policy on the Middle East. In fact, there is an Israeli resolution, adopted by the United States in the Middle East. Let our Arab brothers who enjoy good relations with the United States give us a small example of a U.S. step in favor of the Arabs. We see completely the reverse. The United States is using some Arabs to achieve its policy and international strategy. This confirms the presence of a basic difference in Arab understanding of the U.S. stand.

We believe that the United States is any enemy like Israel, but some Arabs consider it our friend. How can the United States be considered a friend? It supplies Israel with all of its political, economic and military needs. Can the United States be neutral? When the United States is out of the game, Israel will collapse. In terms of economy, Israel would be bankrupt without U.S. aid.

The United States is giving Israel modern and sophisticated arms not used by the U.S. Army. How can the United States be our friend at a time when it is the chief support of Israel, which occupied our land and threatens us with another occupation?

It is naive and simple talk to say that the United States is capable of regaining our rights. When the Arabs were together and when we and Egypt were together, the United States failed to move Israel. How can we expect it to do so now that Egypt is in the game on the enemy's sides?

There is a political side on which we in the Arab homeland are not in agreement. This side pertains to our understanding of who is the enemy and who is the friend? How can we consider the United States is our friend when all the U.S. capabilities and arms are crushing us?

Given matters in their simple form, we must discuss them with objectivity, regardless of the conviction of each one of us. Let us consider the United States and the Soviet Union separately. Let us see what the Arabs have given to the United States and what the United States has given to the Arabs. The United States is taking Arab oil at a time when some Arabs are waging war for the U.S. under the banner of Islam. What has Israel given to the United States? Obviously nothing--neither oil nor money. The reverse is true. Israel is taking everything from the United States at a time when the Arabs are giving the United States oil, money and political support. What is the result? U.S. aid to Israel!

Is there any Arab oil state which is not depositing millions of assets and investment in the United States? What has the United States given to these Arabs? It has approved the annexation of Jerusalem to Israel and given arms to Israel for the crushing of the Palestinian people, Syria and the Arab nation.

Let us take the Soviet Union. What has the Soviet Union given to the Arabs? It has armed Egypt and Syria three times. In the last military agreement with the Soviet Union, it has given us three times the military aid we have received from the Arab states.

I ask again: What have the Arabs given to the Soviet Union?

The United States, which has taken everything from the Arabs, is giving everything to Israel. The Soviet Union, which has not taken everything to Israel. The Soviet Union, which has not taken anything from the Arabs--but the reverse--is considered by a large number of Arabs as an enemy. I mean here the Arab governments and not the Arab people. This is because the Arab people will never consider the Soviet Union as they consider the United States. The Arab people cannot only consider the Soviet Union as a friend if it is compared with the United States. This is one point. The second point is that our relations with the Soviet Union are not like the relations between Israel and the United States because Israel is part of the United States. It is a U.S. state, and we can say that the United States is an Israeli state.

What have we the Arabs given to the Soviets? And what are our relations with them? The Soviet built the high dam in Egypt, electrified Egypt and built railroads and scores of factories. Despite all this, their reward was expulsion and insults. The Soviets have armed Egypt three times partially free of charge. As far as we are concerned, we postponed the arms payments until the year 2000.

Actually, we are thinking now--and this is what I mean by the new qualitative factor in the region--we are thinking of means that will develop our relations with the Soviet Union on a qualitative level, according to which the Soviet Union will give us as much as the United States is giving to Israel. This is what we are now discussing.

During the [1973] October war, the Soviet Union established air and sea bridges to Egypt and Syria. The United States, by virtue of various factors, was much quicker in establishing the air bridge to Israel. Nevertheless, out of honesty and sincerity, we must say that the Soviet Union has compensated us for arms during and after the war. The Soviet Union has even given us more.

As for the talk that the Soviet leaders have asked us to stop the fighting, this talk is absolutely baseless. As-Sadat's talk on this subject is completely groundless. We agreed with As-Sadat that we would go ahead and tell the Soviet Union and Iraq before the war, and he would tell the other Arab countries such as Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait about the decision. The military plan dictated that within 36 hours, we would be regaining the largest part of the Golan and the Egyptian Army would be taking over the passes. At this point, the Soviet Union would call for a Security Council meeting in order to adopt a resolution providing for the restoration of the occupied Arab territories.

This was our agreement with As-Sadat. We conveyed this to the Soviets shortly before the eruption of war. In fact, we achieved the objective during the first 24 hours. We reached the River Jordan and Tiberias, whereas our brothers in Egypt crossed the canal and took up positions there. This clearly shows that the Soviet Union has not abandoned us as some say. At any rate, we have not published anything on the October War, but we will publish the secret implications in due course.

[Question] Some of those who have reservations over their cooperation with the Soviet Union or some of those who are allies with others, believe that they are facing an ideology completely different from theirs, whether in terms of religion or in terms of the economic life. What is your opinion?

[Answer] This is a justification but not a cause. The United States is not an Islamic country. What is the difference, in terms of religion, between the United States and the Soviet Union?

Do they believe that Carter is Muslim or bound to Islam? He is the one who is giving arms to Israel on daily basis and is giving it billions of dollars in order to beef up its military arsenal. Is Carter close to Islam and Brezhnev, who has given arms to the Arabs and is not an enemy to Islam? How can we visualize this matter. Have these people asked who has disintegrated Islam? Wasn't it the West which has occupied the Islamic world? Wasn't it the West which caused the backwardness of the Islamic world? How can we imagine that the West, which had crushed the Muslims for hundreds of years ever since the crusades and also crushed the Palestinian people, is nowadays supporting the Muslims, and the Soviet Union, which is giving us arms to defend our land and holy places, is against the Muslims? How can we admit this and with what logic?

As far as the economic factor is concerned, the Soviet Union and the United States are cooperating, although the United States is the leader of world imperialism and international capitalism. There is an economic cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union. The difference in their systems of government has not prevented this kind of cooperation. Can we forget that the Soviet Union was the only communist country that had waged World War II in alliance with the capitalist West, including the United States and Europe, against nazism despite the real ideological and economic differences.

Also, the differences in ideology and thinking had not prevented Stalin from meeting with Roosevelt and Churchill. It was in the interest of the United States, Britain and France to achieve alliance with the Soviet Union. They actually cooperated with the Soviet Union against nazism. Why do we close our eyes and say: We are Muslims and the Soviets are communists and consequently it is inadmissible to deal with them.

As for Afghanistan, some of our Arab brothers were dragged in an illogical manner into the U.S. game. Let us ask: Is the United States serious with about defending Islam? The answer is: The matter is merely a maneuver. The U.S. clamor is primarily aimed at serving As-Sadat and at covering the Camp David plot. This clamor is also aimed at mingling the cards in the area so that the Arabs would lose interest in their primary issue, Palestine, and at creating a new false enemy for the Arabs instead of their real enemy represented by Israel and Zionism. Thus, the Arabs will forget Palestine and the grave danger menacing them. The United States has given $200 million to Pakistan to fight against the Soviet Union, whereas it is giving $4 billion to Israel to fight against the Arabs.

If the issue is because the Soviet Union is a communist country, why then does Schmidt, the FRG chancellor, adhere to the policy of detente with Moscow at a time when some of our brothers insist on talking about communism?

We in Syria deal with communists. They are representatives in the government, the National Progressive Front and the Syrian Communist Party. They have freedom of work in our country.

[Question] How do you assess the European initiative on the Middle East conflict?

[Answer] It is part of a wide-scale deceptive process of the Arab public opinion. The Europeans are asked from time to time to move within the context of the Camp David policy. Although the Europeans say that the United States alone is capable of bringing pressure to bear on Israel, the United States has done nothing to change the Israeli attitude. Therefore, how can we believe that the Europeans can be influential where the Americans have failed?

We believe that the European initiative can never be a step forward. Its aim is to obstruct the crystalization of a serious Arab stand against Camp David. It is also aimed at obstructing the development of the spirit of steadfastness and confrontation against Israel and Zionism, and at misleading the Arabs by creating illusions on the possibility of solving the dispute. Also, the statements of the officials in France and Britain which say that the PLO must recognize Israel in return for their recognition of the PLO--it is clear that they are asking the Arabs to take a step toward Israel and not toward Europe.

There is another matter that wemust know well, namely that Europe still is under the U.S. security umbrella.

[Question] Some people believe that your relations with Iran are based on specific calculations?

[Answer] He who believes in this is either sick or lives outside this age. We believe that the Iranian Revolution is one of the most important accomplishments in recent years, one that has played a major role in balancing the situation in terms of our conflict with Israel.

Iran under the shah was the second side of the pincers, in addition to Israel, Iran's full cooperation with Israel--cooperation between the SAVAK and Mossad--constituted hegemony on the area. The collapse of the shah is in itself a great gain.

The Iranian Revolution immediately considered the issue of Palestine as one of its main issues. When an Israeli Embassy was opened in Cairo, the Iranians closed the Israeli Embassy in Tehran. At a time when As-Sadat is selling oil to Israel, the Iranians stopped the oil to Israel.

I was in Tehran last July. I saw the Jerusalem march, a scene which makes one's eyes tearful. Four million Iranians chanted "God is great" and "Jerusalem." How can't I consider this image a great positive change. Some of our Arab brothers were disappointed with the various Iranian statements. The matter is completely different. We must assess the Iranian position with its statements and repercussions on the Arab cause. Some of our brothers adopted a stand hostile to the Iranian Revolution before these statements. How can we imagine that the Iranian Revolution is against us.

Our specific stand on our relations with Iran confirms to us the size of the mistake being committed by some of our Arab brothers who are completely blind. The fact that Iran is against Israel is a great gain to the Arab citizen. The Iranian citizen used to see the Israeli flag alone, but now he hears Jerusalem everywhere.

[Question] Don't you consider it important that Iran be advised to release the U.S. hostages held in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran [as published], in order to put an end to the crisis and to ease the tension in the oil region?

[Answer] There is a revolution in Iran. It is not a military coup; there is a real revolution in Iran--a revolution with the full implications of the word. It is a real earthquake, that extends 20 kms deep into the Iranian land. We must not expect to see traditional affairs there. There is a real earthquake in Iran, a revolution that enters every Iranian house. This, naturally, is ascribed to the severity of the tragedies witnessed by Iran in the past; there is no house in Iran that did not suffer death and lose victims. The problem now is not with Iran. It is with the United States. The solution to the problem must be through a U.S. initiative. The United States must immediately take the initiative and return the shah to Iran.

The United States is reflecting on the problem. Had the hostages crisis not developed, the problem would have remained between the United States and Iran. In other words, the hostages affair is only an expression of the existing problem.

[Question] Do you not see difficulty in the return of the shah?

[Answer] No, there is no difficulty.

[Question] How do you assess the conflicting statements that are ascribed to some Iranian personalities and officials, the fact that they accuse the Gulf rulers of being reactionary, their demands to annex Bahrain and their insistence on occupying the three islands?

[Answer] We must give the Iranian Revolution additional time to enable it to normalize things, for the new revolutionary structure has not yet been completed. Our interest as Arabs is that structure be established, that the Islamic revolution in Iran be entrenched and nothing else.

[Question] What is the alternative to the Islamic revolution of Iran?

[Answer] An alternative would not be confined within the Iranian borders. It would be a grave danger, threatening the Arabs. The downfall of the Iranian Revolution and the establishment of military rule in Iran would be a disaster for some of our Arab brothers, who are conspiring against the Iranian Revolution. They would be the first to pay the price.

You know that Turkey usurped five times the area of Palestine from Syria. Despite this, we continually seek to improve our relations with Turkey, because we do not consider Turkey an enemy like Israel. Our battle now is with Israel and not with Turkey. A political stand and a political decision must not be a reaction to a certain stand or a certain incident.

Before the downfall of the shah, certain Arab states were his friends. Some received him, some visited him and some acted as delegates for him. Following the occupation of the islands, they all kept their silence. Some of them signed the well-known 1975 agreements with the shah. The islands were occupied at that time. They are dear to us, but the problem is not one of the islands. The islands are like the (Iskandarun) Province. As I have said, the lands that were taken from Syria are five time as great as the area of Palestine. Which is more important, the islands or (Iskandarun)? Which is more important, (Iskandarun) or Palestine?

[Question] What is the essence of the dispute between Damascus and Baghdad?

[Answer] Frankly, we do not have any information. We consider Iraq a basic factor in our conflict with Israel; in fact, not only Iraq but all of the Arab east. Israeli expansion is always toward the east. This is due to considerations in the Zionist strategy and the importance of the Arab east, the region and its oil. Furthermore, the Arab east is the southern border of the Soviet Union. There are many other factors that give the Arab east its great importance. The proof of Iraq's importance to us is that President Hafiz al-Asad himself took the initiative and went to Baghdad.

We do not want to pose questions, despite the fact that we feel deep bitterness. We will leave the matter to time, which will perhaps clarify many obscure points. We try carefully not to have any problems with any Arab country. We in Syria are deeply pained but we avoid saying anything. The so-called national declaration was issued. Some Syrians were brought to Baghdad to insult us. They insulted us day and night and during the conference. Despite all of this, we were careful to remain silent. There are stringent instructions to our information media to avoid offending any Arab country.

If we take a look at the Moroccan press, we see that it has been waging a campaign of slander against us for the past year and the Moroccan king has made many statements as well. Despite all of this, we refuse to be provoked and our information media have remained silent. There are some Arab countries that provide refuge to criminals and killers from Syria. They know them and we know them. Despite this we have never referred to this matter, because we are concerned about Arab solidarity, about maintaining at least the bare minimum in Arab solidarity and about avoiding deterioration in things.

[Question] Don't you believe that your silence will give the Arab citizen an impression that you are guilty?

[Answer] No. I don't believe that this is the case. There is no intelligent Arab citizen who will believe that Syria has any interest in antagonizing any Arab country. Syria, whose capital is 60 kms from Israel; Syria, which is threatened by an Israeli invasion, has no interest in doing so. Syria's raised the slogan of Arab solidarity and is still defending it.

[Question] Won't such silence, however, be questioned?

[Answer] There are two possibilities. Either we remain silent and suffer some questions from our Arab brothers who do not logically discuss or evaluate issues, or we return to the methods of vituperation. We reject vituperation between us and any Arab country. Our press would have no difficulty in initiating a campaign against Morocco, for example.

[Question] What has the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front offered, and how have the Arabs benefited from it, particularly Syria?

[Answer] First--the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front is a political stand that is considered the foundation upon which the Baghdad summit conference was convened. Following As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Arab denunciation was scarce, whereas the front's stand was a serious one. Four and half months after the visit, the Arab foreign ministers met in Cairo. The meeting was attended by 15 Arab foreign ministers. At that time Weizman, the Israeli defense minister, came to Cairo. Naturally, the steadfastness and confrontation states boycotted the foreign ministers meeting, for we were the foundation upon which the Arab stand was established. Our assessment later turned out to be correct. Some Arab states said, "No, be patient. As-Sadat will retract." Numayri began his well-known mediation. We were certain that As-Sadat had taken a path from which he could not retreat. Therefore, the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front provided the political pan-Arab stand on which the Baghdad summit rested. All of the Baghdad summit resolutions are the outcome of the front's stand.

Second--How Syria has benefited is not important. What is important is what the cause has gained. Any gain for Syria is a gain for the Arab nation and any gain for the Arab nation is a gain for Syria. The mere establishment of the pan-Arab stand is considered a great achievement by us. Still, following the Baghdad summit, some retractions occurred in some Arab stands. It is true that political relations with Egypt were severed; but the embassies remained. Most of the Arab embassies changed nothing except their ambassadors. Here is another example. In 1950, some 30 years ago, it was repeatedly said that King 'Abdallah had been contacting Israel. Egypt called for an Arab prime ministers meeting. They adopted a resolution to totally boycott any Arab state that negotiated or had agreements with Israel. Now, cultural relation are being strengthened between Israel and Egypt. We have documents that were addressed to the Egyptian defense minister by some Arab ministers and ministers of defense following the signing of the agreement. We have documents on the signing of agreements of cooperation between the Egyptian Government and some Arab countries following the signing of the agreement. This is one of the facets of retraction. The Arabs should have besieged As-Sadat, in order to make the Egyptian people realize that the path that will guarantee peace and security is the Arab path and not the Israeli path.

[Question] What have the Arabs offered to bolster Syria's steadfastness, which is synonymous with Arab steadfastness?

[Answer] These matters are not calculated by some material yardstick. We hold that all of the Arab states are participating with us in the confrontation. On a practical level, we have received $1.5 billion, which is less than half of the budget of the Syrian Army, which now numbers 300,000. The problem should not be looked at in this fashion. The Arab countries' problem is that they look at the question from the point of view of aid, whereas we assume that the Arab countries should shoulder part of the responsibility of the burdens shouldered by Syria.

This is where the imbalance derives. We do not view these matters through a material perspective, despite their importance. We view matters through the perspective of their pan-Arab dimensions. Naturally, we are struggling to restore the balance between us and Israel, as I said a short while ago. We are convinced that the time will come when we will be able to restore this balance. Syria's population is three times that of Israel and despite our difficulties, our economic potentials are greater than Israel's.

It is only a matter of time. The future is ours. We are now graduating about 1,000 engineers each year. All of this effort should be channelled toward the conflict. We are not pessimistic regarding the future. Although present times are painful, we have foreign aid from the friendly countries, in addition to Arab aid.

[Question] Was 'Abd as-Salam Jallud's visit to the Soviet Union made in agreement with Syria?

[Answer] We learned about 'Abd as-Salam Jallud's presence in Moscow by accident.

[Question] It is said that the internal events in Syria are caused by the excesses of certain state organs, one of which is the intelligence service.

[Answer] This is absolutely false. The intelligence service was established in Syria when the Syrian state was established and not in 1979 or 1980. Any talk about excesses by anyone is untrue. We have been in power for a long time. Why didn't the events take place before, instead of now, at a specific stage?

Let us take Syria and compare it with Egypt. Everyone knows what is going on in Egypt. The shaykh of Al-Azhar University welcomed Begin at the airport. As-Sadat betrayed his people and nation and signed the document of disgrace and treason. Why didn't the Muslim Brotherhood move and say as much as a single word against As-Sadat's conduct? On the contrary, At-Talmasani, their leader in Egypt, asks the Egyptian people, through the AD-DA'WAH magazine, to refrain from violence against the Israeli Embassy, because "if we destroy it, we will be forced to rebuilt it."

I believe that the Syrian intelligence service's intervention in the Syrian domestic situation is less than corresponding situations in any other Arab country. We are a country open to all and any Arab citizen can enter Syria on his identity alone. Can any Arab citizen enter Kuwait, Jordan or Morocco, for example, without a visa?

What has happened in Syria cannot be separated from Syria's pan-Arab and political stand. We said this in the past, basing our analysis on the situation. After raiding the dens, apprehending a number of saboteurs and seizing documents, the picture has become clearer. We have seized warehouses full of Israeli weapons. Assuming that some excesses did take place, does this justify the artillery school massacre in Aleppo or the murder of the religious affairs director in Hama?

At any rate, what is the connection between the two things? Thus far, 12 elderly religious leaders have been killed. What do these have to do with the excesses they are talking about? What do the university professors and teachers who have been killed have to do with these excesses? The problem is not one of excesses. The issue is Syria's firm stand against the Camp David process. This stand was imposed upon Syria, in view of its geographic location and pan-Arab faith. Had Syria been located elsewhere, it would not have been important to the Camp David partners and the U.S. and Israeli strategies. Perhaps you all recall the fierce information and psychological campaign to which Syria was subjected when it intervened to save fraternal Lebanon from its ordeal of internecine fighting and destruction.

[Question] Will you explain the Syrian stand in Lebanon? What are the causes for the stall in a solution leading to national accord?

[Answer] We thought it our duty to offer assistance to our Lebanese brothers, to enable them to emerge from the dilemma of the current conflict and to put a final end to the Lebanese alliance, so that we could concentrate our efforts on the basic battle against the Zionist enemy. Meetings were held in regard to southern Lebanon and discussions and meetings were held with the Lebanese nationalist parties. President Sarkis issued his well-known document, containing new and positive principles that can serve as a framework for solving the domestic issue. In my visit to Beirut our discussion focused on the way to move toward the stage of national accord, as presented in the document. We told President Sarkis that we are ready to offer any assistance, provided he take the initiative of contacting all the concerned Lebanese parties, so to crystallize the measures necessary to carry Lebanon forward to the stage of national accord.

[Question] There are some who wager that Syria will not withdraw its forces from Lebanon?

[Answer] On our part, we wager on withdrawing 10 hours from the time the Lebanese parties agree to the withdrawal process. I would also like to say that when we made the decision to redeploy our forces, we received a letter from Camille Sham'un and another from the Phalangist party. Camille Sham'un sent an envoy called George Jar. Then the Phalangists' emissaries came and said that they were worried about Syria's withdrawal from Beirut, because it would cause a renewal of fighting. Everybody, including our Palestinian brothers, the leaders of the Lebanese nationalist movement and President Sarkis, asked us to think again. They said: The alternative to the Syrian withdrawal will be civil war and if war is resumed, the destruction will be complete and the crisis will be aggravated as both sides' armament has increased.

We are ready to withdraw our forces on the same day that the warring parties entrench national accord and internal security and take the necessary measures to maintain calm and to prevent a return of fighting.

[Question] Will the Lebanese, however, come to such an agreement?

[Answer] The Lebanese will agree when external Arab and foreign pressures end. Undoubtedly, there is an almost unanimous wish to entrench national accord and to move Lebanon to the stage of stability and reassurance.

[Question] How do you view the Iranian-Iraqi conflict?

[Answer] We hope that such a conflict will not take place.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES JORDANIAN INFORMATION MINISTER

JN201655 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Information Minister Dr Sa'id at-Tal at noon today. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad and Jordanian Ambassador in Damascus Husayn Hamami. The two ministers briefed his excellency the president on the results of their talks, dealing with ways of developing information relations. They also discussed with him the pan-Arab role that information must play to become an active factor in Arab life and reviewed bilateral relations and ways of developing them.

MORE ON BEGIN REPLY TO AS-SADAT ON AUTONOMY TALKS

TA201010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] The prime minister has replied to the Egyptian president's letter, saying that Cairo must initiate the resumption of the autonomy talks because it is Cairo that had suspended them.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that this morning Menahem Begin's reply was sent to Cairo. It is worded in a friendly manner and the prime minister emphasized that it is advisable and also necessary to continue the talks. He also reviewed Israel's basic positions on disputed issues, such as the status of Jerusalem, the future of the settlements and the nature of the self-administration in the territories.

Jerusalem 'Sources' Comment

TA201432 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 May 80 pp 1, 2

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin is going to inform President as-Sadat that Israel is prepared to resume the autonomy talks at any time, but the initiative for this is not Israel's responsibility since it was not Israel that suspended the talks. The prime minister, in his letter, will confirm that Israel has the right to settle throughout Eretz Yisra'el, including Judaea and Samaria, and that Jerusalem will eternally remain Israel's capital and will not be partitioned again. Begin will also repeat Israel's positon regarding its sole responsibility for security in the autonomy.

Begin's letter, which is written in a friendly style, has already been completed in principle and will be sent to the Israeli Embassy in Cairo today to be given to President as-Sadat. Last night, it was assumed in Jerusalem that the autonomy talks would soon be resumed. This assumption is also based on President as-Sadat's letter to Begin, in which As-Sadat expresses a wish to resume the talks. It is assumed that the practical initiative for the resumption of the talks will come from the United States.

Yesterday, in view of the possibility of a resumption of the autonomy talks, political elements in Jerusalem announced that the differences of opinion between Israel and Egypt were very deep and at this moment it is difficult to see how they will be resolved. However, these elements said that negotiations should be conducted, since only through negotiations was there a possibility of reaching understanding or mutual agreement.

It should be noted that since President as-Sadat's speech in Jerusalem, Egypt has not budged "1 mm" from its positions and that if the Egyptians were to budge, an autonomy agreement would already have been achieved.

The political elements confirmed that in his letter to Begin President as-Sadat enumerates three things preventing a good atmosphere in the autonomy talks: the legislative initiative over Jerusalem, the continued establishment of settlements and the harrassment of the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank.

It emerges that Jerusalem thinks that "we have reached the red line" on the autonomy issue and that there is no room for any gesture or concession toward Egypt. The dispute over Jerusalem and the settlement issue, it is said, is not new and the only possibility is to continue with the autonomy negotiations with taking into account occurrences outside them, such as the settlements or legislation about Jerusalem, with the hope that when an agreement is achieved it will have an effect on the creation of new facts in the field.

On the settlements issue, the political elements said that Israel cannot possibly take a specific timetable into account and freeze the settlements. By so doing, they said, Israel could create a de facto situation whereby there would be no more settlements in Judaea and Samaria. In contrast to this, the establishment of a settlement here and there will neither add nor detract, since in any event all the political elements in the world are opposed to any Israeli presence in the territories and to all of Israel's actions in the sphere of settlements in the territories in the past, present and future. Because of this, even the takeover of the Hadassah building cannot affect the situation one way or another. It should be recalled, they said, that the Camp David agreements say nothing about Israel not establishing settlements.

Columnist on As-Sadat-Begin Exchange

TA201618 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 May 80 p 19

[Yosef Harif commentary: "In His Letter to Begin, As-Sadat Proposes 'Treading the Same Path' Again"]

[Text] If there is anything new in Egypt President Anwar as-Sadat's letter to Prime Minister Menahem Begin--after As-Sadat had publicly announced the discontinuation of autonomy talks twice in 1 week--it is that the letter contains nothing new....

One could assume that under such circumstances a personal letter from As-Sadat to Begin would remove misunderstanding; that it would seek to strengthen the mutual trust between the two leaders, which has significantly deteriorated; or that it would contain an accusation of Israel--supplying proof--having torpedoed the autonomy talks, with all that it implies for the prospects of continuing "normalization," as far as a linkage between the Egypt-Israel peace treaty and the agreement to be reached about autonomy exists.

None of these is included in As-Sadat's letter. He does not close the door on the continuation of talks; on the contrary, he reminds Begin that "we have trodden a common path" and that "we have made a joint commitment", and it is therefore necessary to go on.

As-Sadat does not make straightforward accusations and does not state that the Israeli stances block all progress in the autonomy talks.

Although he reiterates his objection to the establishment of settlements and to "the Jerusalem bill," As-Sadat does not contend that this does not allow for the resumption of the talks. His opinion is only that "atmosphere" is necessary for the success of the talks, while the settlements and the Jerusalem issue cloud (or trouble) the atmosphere. He does not, however, make the resumption of the talks conditional on stopping settlement activity or on revoking the legislation on Jerusalem.

On the other hand, the letter does not strike a note--or "atmosphere"--conducive to improving the trust between the two leaders.

When the prime minister consulted some of his colleagues regarding a reply, one of the ministers commented: "He (As-Sadat) knows very well what we want when we speak about autonomy. Suddenly he discovered the settlements. They did not stop him from signing a peace treaty with us; they did not bother him for almost a year of autonomy talks; all of sudden he 'has discovered' that the settlements disrupt the atmosphere.

"The same is true of Jerusalem. The prime minister has used every opportunity, including the Knesset rostrum, to declare that we will make no compromises over Jerusalem. What has changed? What was suggested for the Jerusalem bill, 1980, that was not said in the Jerusalem law of 1967? That same law did not prevent As-Sadat from coming to Jerusalem to the Knesset building. All of a sudden does Israel's stance on Jerusalem spoil the atmosphere?"

Another minister said: "Perhaps he feels 'obliged' to impress the Arab world and he is trying to do so at our expense?"

"If this is the case, he should be aware that everybody has his own problems. One cannot solve all one's problems at somebody else's cost."

It can be assumed that the reply to As-Sadat's letter will not necessarily have to be written in these words, but there is no doubt that it will express the spirit of these words.

At any rate, in Jerusalem there is a growing feeling of uncertainty as far as As-Sadat is concerned. In the words of one minister during a debate on the reply to As-Sadat: "who knows whether while we are discussing the reply to his letter, in which he is offering to resume the talks, As-Sadat is not preparing another announcement about discontinuing them...."

Indeed, there is no certainty. There is nothing in As-Sadat's letter to indicate his willingness to understand Israel's problems. As-Sadat is speaking of his "heartache," but is unwilling to show consideration for Israel's pangs. If this is the situation--and As-Sadat's letter does not dispel this estimate--the negotiators on behalf of Israel must frankly say: There are no chances for implementing autonomy since there is no way for Egypt to consent to autonomy as Israel sees it.

This inevitable conclusion was reached by the head of the negotiating team, Dr Yosef Burg, this week. On reading As-Sadat's letter, he remarked: "I am losing the motivation to go on (with the autonomy talks).... It is difficult to do business [last word transliterated from English] with this merchandise.... We cannot plaster over any more."

This truth--that one cannot plaster over any more--As-Sadat ought to be aware of.

It is interesting to note that in his letter As-Sadat did not mention any specific date for the resumption of the talks. He only spoke in principle. Israel can accept the principle, of course, but the actual resumption of the talks should be decided upon only after it becomes clear what they will be resumed about.

FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR RECEIVES EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR

TA201039 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 May 80 p 3

[Text] The autonomy negotiations should be conducted without taking into account difficulties arising from time to time that are the result of differences of opinion between Egypt and Israel that have been in existence for a long time, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday at a meeting in his office with the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, Sa'd Murtada. The Egyptian ambassador agreed with what Shamir has said and expressed the hope that the autonomy negotiations would soon be resumed.

The meeting was initiated at the urgent request of the Egyptian ambassador, submitted the day before yesterday. Murtada reported to the foreign minister on the full text of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's announcement about the second suspension of the talks. Jerusalem sources commented that this text, like that of President as-Sadat's letter to Begin the day before yesterday is not helping toward an understanding of the reasons for the Egyptian suspension of the talks.

During the meeting the autonomy talks were reviewed. The Egyptian ambassador said that he did not know any details about the resumption of the talks. The foreign minister commented about publications in the Egyptian press touching on the atmosphere between the two countries. He indicated an article published the day before yesterday in AL-AKHBAR in which Prime Minister Begin is compared with Hitler. At the meeting, Shamir raised issues involving normalization and the Egyptian ambassador promised to have them clarified.

To a question by Murtada about Shamir's impressions of his European trip, the foreign minister replied that, from his talks with the foreign ministers of Italy and Britain, he had formed the impression that the European countries would apparently not take any steps in the near future likely to interfere with the negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

GOVERNMENT UPSET BY ANERA CONTACTS WITH JORDAN OFFICE, PLO

TA201417 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Israel regards with severity contacts held by Henry Fields, the manager of ANERA--the main U.S. aid agency in the territories. Measures might be taken against him. Fields has recently visited the PLO office in the Jordanian capital and the Jordanian office for affairs of the West Bank. In the PLO office he attended a reception for the three deported leaders from the Hebron Hills. In the Jordanian office Fields conferred with the chief, (Shawqat Mahmud). They discussed aid plans for Judaea and Samaria.

ANERA participates in financing the agricultural cooperative unions which were established by Jordan and the PLO in Judaea and Samaria.

HA'ARETZ COMMENTS ON EUROPEAN INITIATIVE, CARTER'S REACTION

TA201056 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 80 p 11

[A. Schweitzer commentary: "With Confidence and a Stone Wall"]

[Excerpt] Israel is not the only country serving as a subject for European policy, which may be described as being the maximum of pretentiousness and the minimum of responsibility. This is what the European policy toward the United States' dispute with Iran was, and so, too--with the exception of Britain--it was toward the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the U.S. response to that invasion. Suddenly, theories are beginning to be heard that detente can be split and that promising export deals by German and French manufacturers should not be interfered with just because of the Kremlin's moves in an obscure Asian country. The rule is that Europe is prepared to demand--this time from Israel, another time from the United States and from who else?--but not lend a hand or take any responsibility.

However, while the European position which was brought to Mr Muskie's attention was precisely tailored to fit European policy, we have known for many years now. What is more than a little surprising is its reception by the United States. It is true that the United States itself was involved in an attempt to bring about a change in Security Council Resolution 242, but there were grounds to assume that not only the Israeli lobby, but practical considerations, too, finally brought U.S. diplomacy back to the Camp David agreements tract. [paragraph continues]

These agreements, which are based on that same Security Council resolution and at least superficially, anyone who undermines the foundations is risking destroying what is built upon them. And so it is amazing that Mr Carter is trying to persuade Israel to implement the Palestinian section of the Camp David agreement (in accordance with a certain interpretation) with the hinted threat that if it does not, the allies of the United States, with the latter's agreement, will cause the destruction of the agreement's foundations.

It is even more amazing that President Carter is agreeing to do what his less reliable allies in Europe want, although he recognizes and knows who Mr Begin and his colleagues in the Israeli Government are. In the third year of his direct involvement in the negotiating process, and 1 year after the peace treaty was signed in Washington, Mr Carter should have known how the Government if Israel would react to an appeal of this sort: with red tape and with a cry of despair whose echoes will reach the United States. The Europeans, who have no moral, political or military involvement in what is happening in the area, have no difficulty in presenting demands. The United States has all of these and also has a domestic policy. Against this background there is some point in doubting whether President Carter is capable of carrying out a political about-face, as hinted at in his letter to the prime minister, and this doubt is strengthened when looking at the results he is likely to obtain in Israel.

The surest, and we would like to say, the only path likely to lead to a reasonable conclusion on the Palestinian issue is that of patient, exhaustive negotiations between the United States and Egypt on the one hand and with Israel on the other. It would not be honest if we denied that it will be difficult--and perhaps impossible--to come to an agreement which will be acceptable to Egypt (not to mention the rejectionist countries and the PLO and their European patrons) with the current government of Israel. But this government has no right to rule, and even it may be influenced, even though not by the path the United States is now taking in the spirit of the European initiative. We can only express shook at the fact that from time to time it has been proven that there are no shortcuts on the road to peace in the Middle East, President Carter is now leaping into a move that must lead him to a stone wall.

The advice that should be given to the U.S. President is to bring about a resumption of the autonomy negotiations. President as-Sadat's situation in the Arab world may not be a comfortable one, but neither is it critical and these months will not influence his status or his regime in Egypt. We may have doubts about the usefulness of the solution the the Palestinian issue that Mr Begin sold his partners on at the beginning of 1977. But implementing autonomy, or even agreeing on its components and authority, is not a matter for a stopwatch. Anyone who takes it seriously must admit that it involves serious interests , not only those of the Arabs and Europeans, but also those of Israel. Time is needed for a decision on such issues--and if somebody has no time, then neither does he have the ability to deal with the issue in a way that will guarantee a lasting solution.

U.S. TEAM REPORTS ISRAEL, EGYPT VIOLATE SINAI AGREEMENT

TA201229 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 May 80 p 1

[Text] The U.S. supervisory teams in the Sinai, who carried out a check of Israel's early warning stations and of Egypt's limited forces areas, have reported that both sides have violated the military agreement.

In one of the early warning stations, the U.S. supervisors reported the existence of four more antitank vehicles than is permitted. In the Egyptian limited forces zone a it was found that the Egyptians were maintaining one gun that should not be there (a coastal gun) and also one more unit than is permitted.

The cochairmen of the joint military committee, Brig Gen Dov Si'on from Israel and Commodore Muhsin Muhsin Hamdi from Egypt--will meet tomorrow with the head of the U.S. observer team in order to examine the reasons for the violations. At 1200 today [as published], in the presence of U.S. supervisors, the IDF removed the four extra antitank vehicles from the early warning station in Sinai. The Egyptians explained that it was not a question of an additional unit but of splitting up one of the artillery concentrations they are permitted to maintain in the area. They also explained that the coastal gun had been in the zone for years.

The Egyptian cochairman of the joint committee and three of his staff came to Israel yesterday on a regular commercial flight from Cairo for a routine meeting of the joint committee. Their arrival was not publicized. It has only now been learned that 2 weeks ago the Israeli chairman, Brig Gen Dov Si'on, and another officer from the committee visited Cairo in order to discuss problems that had arisen with the Egyptians. Israeli elements emphasize that this way of maintaining contacts indicates normalization in the relations between the two countries.

BEGIN REPORTED TO BE AGAINST INVITING REAGAN

TA201206 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 May 80 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has rejected a proposal to invite Ronald Reagan, who may be the Republican candidate for the U.S. presidency, for a visit to Jerusalem before the U.S. election. The proposal was brought to him by MK Roni Milo who has returned from a visit to the United States where he met with Republican senators who made the suggestion. However, Mr Begin replied that he was not prepared to intervene in any way in the electoral battle in the United States. Yesterday MK Roni Milo proposed, at a meeting of the Likud foreign relations committee, sending an official Likud delegation to the Republican convention scheduled to be held in Detroit in August, in order to express support for Reagan. MK Milo commented that President Carter had invited MK Shim'on Peres behind Mr Begin's back. MK Milo said the Republicans were angry with us because we did not maintain any relations with them. Many Jews in the United States have decided to support Reagan because of Carter's intransigent positions on Israel, Milo said.

BEGIN CONFERS WITH HEAD OF ISRAELI OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

TA201033 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] The presidium of the Israeli Olympic Committee met with the prime minister in his office today as part of the consultations before making a decision as to whether or not Israel will participate in the Moscow Olympics. The chairman of the Olympic Committee said after the meeting that even if some persons urged nonparticipation in the Olympics, the final decision will only be made on 29 May at a meeting of the Olympic Committee plenum.

U.S. Support Pledged

TA201128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] The United States is prepared to support Israel in the world sports arena to dispel fears it may have that, should it decide to boycott the Moscow games, its status in world sports events would be hampered. This has been reported by the chairman of the Israeli Olympic Committee before the heads of that committee conferred with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. The meeting is still underway. Prior to that, the delegation met with the prime minister. These consultations are in preparation for the decision the Olympic Committee will make on whether to participate in the Olympic Games or boycott them.

CAMEROON

AHIDJO ADDRESSES NATION ON NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY

AB201020 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 19 May 80

[Cameroon President Ahmadou Ahidjo's address to the nation on the eve of the country's 20th anniversary--speech in French followed by English translation--transcribed from English]

[Excerpt] Men and women of Cameroon, fellow countrymen: Twenty years ago, Cameroon became a sovereign and independent state. On this occasion, I send to all Cameroonians my brotherly greetings. My thoughts also go to the memory of our comrades-in-arms who have departed from us. Having done so on several occasions, and most recently during the third ordinary congress of our great party, we are not going to take stock here of our achievements over the past 20 years. What we can examine is the progress we have made toward the achievement of our goals, faced as we have been with the important tasks of searching for a cultural and national identity, organizing the state and stepping up development.

What we can examine is the coherence and efficiency of the philosophy of action that the country has fixed for itself in its efforts to shape our destiny as a free people; a philosophy which is based on the exaltation of initiative and creativity in an orderly and planned manner on social advancement and on a balanced distribution of progress throughout the country.

Let us first of all examine the determined search for unity. This unity, which is indispensable to the advent and survival of an authentic Cameroonian nation, is gradually taking root within the framework of our great national party, the Cameroon National Union, a party assigned with the ethical mission of increasing awareness in the Cameroon people and their efficiency in the struggle which we must carry out for a rapid and harmonious development of the nation. Our wish is that the mystique of unity becomes for all Cameroonians a state of mind, a state of soul and an impulse of the heart, since it is in the mind, the soul and the heart of each Cameroonian that the defense mechanism must be set up and the safeguard and consolidation of unity are realized.

Secondly, with regard to development, we have understood that our real problems are linked to a more effective and independent mastery of our production and marketing structures and to the installation of adequate facilities for [word indistinct], programming and evaluation, without which our efforts will remain incoherent improvisations. We have launched our ardent and proud youth on the road [word indistinct] of the strongholds of the knowledge, science and technology required for the economic liberation of our country. We have endeavored to reawaken in the people and awareness of the cultural identity of the nation in order to be able to rehabilitate the national culture, which had been alienated, and to provide this culture with the conditions of a new life on which its future is henceforth dependent. Lastly, we have confidently integrated ourselves into the vast movement for the building of a universal civilization enriched with the original contribution of each people.

Accordingly, our international policy has always been inspired by the double principle of peace and cooperation with all nations of the world without distinction, but with constant concern for making our sovereignty and identity respected, relentlessly fighting unjust and backward causes, particularly in Africa, within the framework of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations systems. Thus, to sum up, we have, in the face of the permanent nature of our objectives and in view of the remarkable progress achieved and the decisive victories won at all levels and in all fields, the right to be proud and to be reasonably optimistic.

Yes, there is no doubt that we have, in these past two decades, all together achieved a task whose balance sheet is eminent and is, on the whole, positive in various fields of national building, development of national unity and awareness, organization of economic, social and cultural progress.

But we should not let ourselves be carried away by the (?stimulation) of self-satisfaction. We must remain conscious of the prevailing unfavorable international situation. We are living in a world characterized by serious economic crisis whose pernicious consequences are directly felt by countries like ours. This economic crisis renders futile and ineffectual our attempts aimed at establishing a more just international order and renders ridiculous all efforts for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Moreover, the world order is disturbed by the proliferation of areas of tension. The stockpiling of arms--all these things that threaten the security of people and compromise the establishment of a lasting peace among nations.

Under these circumstances, Africa is struggling from a position of weakness, and it has recently been the subject of an unprecedented destabilization offensive. We, therefore, have the imperative duty to remain vigilant, united, and conscious of the extent of the difficulties before us. It is all the more imperative that we remain vigilant as our stability and development do not gain us only admiration, but also as our policy of independence, our policy of nonalignment, antagonizes some who hope to see the whole of Africa destabilized with the complicity of some nationals misguided by unbridled ambition. We **must**, therefore, get ready to face the third millennium with the arms that match the bitter challenge being thrown out to us.

First, we have once and for all to be infused with the reality that development only comes from within. But this endogenous development is a development of man by man and for man. In other words, this type of development is a self-reliant and self-sustained development. There can be no development if we do not cultivate in ourselves a will for self-development; there can be no development if we do not concretely express this ethical commitment. The ethic, in fact, begins with the reality of a creative effort through which man is the producing agent and at the same time the agent determining the goal.

In this regard, our strategy will aim at rigorously and methodically accelerating economic growth. Not as an end in itself but rather as a master instrument of activity in the achievement of the quantitative and qualitative goals of society. This presupposes that we have the ability to provide our country with indispensable equipment. Over and above all, this requires a rehabilitation of the rural world, the formulation of a new type of rural development strategy that will make of the rural man a [word indistinct] and citizen, a revitalizing of communal villages and making the coordinated productive efforts that are necessary for the optimum development of the country.

Our strategy will also aim at rejecting the tendency that deprives some social groups of the benefits of development. This implies that we must pay very careful attention to regional problems, minority problems and, with regard to employment policy, we must remain sensitive to the needs of the underprivileged that promises social (?strain).

Lastly, we shall fight for the elimination of obstacles which check the efficiency of the international economic system.

Thus, in cooperation with other African countries and countries of the Third World, with which we shall continue to work in consultation to solve concrete problems, we may more vigorously reaffirm our legitimate aspiration to a more equitable redistribution of the fruits of growth and to a more just remuneration of the efforts made by our people. We shall demand, with yet more determination, respect for certain principles essential to the safeguarding of our economy.

In particular, the disposal of our natural resources, as well as the abolition of trade practices which discriminate against some of our export products. Agreements which guarantee the stability of our export earnings, greater facility for financing at lower rates and which do not leave a (?strain) on our long-term development program, and the acquisition of technological development at reasonable costs.

However, fellow countrymen, the situation is first and foremost still alarming despite a promising future, and this is due to the constant dangers facing our young society. Impatience and intolerance are (?placed) in an atmosphere of instability and uncertainty about the future. This affects young people in particular. They are more than ever before wondering about their future when they are not given in to a systematic and usually negative criticism or carried away by discouragement.

Therefore, in order to safeguard our previous achievement and pursue our onward march on the road to a new humanism, we are to get rid of moribund values of the past and introduce new values imbued with force as well as keep an ideal which acts as a driving force. Consequently, instead of regarding happiness only in terms of the accumulation of material wealth in a society of complaisance which attaches more importance to property than to the human being and instead of taking liberty for anarchy, we should work for a society governed by morals which must be socialized through the effect of a set of norms at work in life style and behavior. Priority should be given to the general interest over personal interest--sense of duty, good citizenship, spirit of collective discipline, moral rectitude, spirit of initiative and generosity.

The general ideal having force is, and should always be, the search for national unity. It is the imperative duty of each citizen who is conscious of his responsibility toward the nation to work relentlessly for the constant protection and consolidation of the nation.

During these two decades, fellow countrymen, it is your devotion to the Cameroonian nation and your commitment to serve it efficiently that I would like to observe once again this evening. I would like to urge you to be one in spirit and sentiment in the common desire for a constant and controlled progress in peace, unity and stability and in common faith in the (?lofty) destiny of the nation. As for us, the country can rest assured that we shall not fail to turn any stone which will contribute to making Cameroon a united, strong, prosperous and influential nation. Long live Cameroon!

CHAD

NDJAMENA FIGHTING CONTINUES; OUTBREAK OF EPIDEMICS FEARED

AB201949 Paris AFP in French 1736 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 May (AFP)--Fighting continued on Monday in Ndjamena, a ghost town, where one fears the outbreak of epidemics with the coming of the rains, which would cause new ravages among a population that has suffered terribly since 1 March last. The Chadian capital, devoid of its European population since last Friday, after the withdrawal decision taken in Paris, is still divided between supporters of Mr Hissein Habre who occupy the African quarters, and soldiers of President Goukouni Oueddei who are holding the administrative and the European sectors.

One notes, however, that after 1 and 1/2 months! fighting, neither one's position has changed, for all practical purposes. There have been heavy losses. The quarters which have suffered most are the center of the town, around the independence square where the cathedral was destroyed, and along the Charles de Gaulle Avenue, the principal commercial center of the European sector.

Added to these losses due to the fighting is the systematic looting which has been carried out particularly in the FAP [People's Armed Forces] zone of Mr Goukouni Oueddei. Presently, observers do not see any end to this fratricidal conflict opposing Mr Hissein Habre and the coalition lead by Mr Goukouni and comprising the Chadian Armed Forces, FAT, of the Vice President Kamougue and the Joint Action Front (FAC) of Mr Mohamat Abba Said, minister of the interior, and Mr Acyl Ahamet, minister of foreign affairs, in spite of the urgent calls for national reconciliation made by both African and French authorities for many weeks now.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU DISCUSSES STUDENT UNREST, ROLE OF STUDENTS

AB201702 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1110 GMT 19 May 80

[Excerpt] Rome, 19 May (AZAP)--The president of the republic, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, has declared that Zaire faces economic, social, but not political problems. This was the essential point contained in his reply to the message of thanks of the spokesman for the Zairian ecclesiastical students during a meeting which the head of state held with members of this student community at the residence of the Zairian ambassador to the Vatican on Sunday, 18 May.

All the same, the Zairian people have to be hopeful, because--and even foreigners recognize it now--we can see the end of the tunnel the president added. In effect the solutions to all the present socioeconomic problems are contained in the Mobutu plan which provides for short-, medium- and long-term objectives, explained the president, [words indistinct].

The president of the republic also stated that the World Bank consulting group will meet in Paris within 11 days to approve the allocation among the sectors of the private financing of this plan.

Replying to the apprehension of the ecclesiastical students who felt there was need for sacrifice in the training of tomorrow's cadres, President Mobutu explained that since his coming into power, the education sector absorbs 30 to 40 percent of the national budget annually and that to improve the results of [words indistinct] is being studied at present at the primary, secondary and university levels.

The head of state, whose frankness is well known by all, also explained that he was led to close down the university campus of Kinshasa and five higher institutions because, not content with launching their protest movement in his absence, the students of these institutions also refused to attend classes, therefore departing from the spirit of dialogue recommended by the founding president of the MPR [Popular Movement of the Revolution] as a good Zairian head of family.

And to support these facts, he cited the example of students of the campus of Lubumbashi who, unlike their colleagues of Kinshasa, calmly explained their difficulties to him. All these difficulties have been resolved now. To point out the seriousness of the case of the students in Kinshasa, the founding president stressed the fact that the agitation of the students from the campus of Kinshasa was conceived and controlled by foreigners from Louvain La Neuve, in Belgium, from whence they received financial assistance and pamphlets to be distributed in Zaire, all these passing through an embassy.

[Word indistinct] the students from the campus of Kinshasa and their masters had an aim which was very obvious: to lead the pope to cancel his visit to Zaire. Besides, the holy father at the same time received a number of letters and telegrams asking him to take a decision along these lines. However, since the pope's visit to Zaire, he continues to affirm that when in the country he discovered the opposite of what had been written and he feels more attached to the church and the people of Zaire and its head. Here is a tacit condemnation of what was written to him, citizen Mobutu added. Beforehand, the president of the republic had invited his listeners to meditate on the advice of the pope, contained in his message to the Zairian youth on 4 May, that is, to beware of imported ideologies. The role of the student leader of tomorrow, is to try to master science, techniques and foreign technology in order to put his knowledge at the service of his country, he stated. The head of state then analyzed the different aspects of the economic crisis that Zaire faces before naming some internal and external causes. He recalled that in order to train and purify the conscience of the youth, the executive council has made the churches responsible for the administration of schools.

BRIEFS

FRANCO-CONGOLESE COOPERATION--Brazzaville, 19 May (AFP)--France and the Republic of Congo have signed 3 financial agreements totalling 2.175 billion CFA francs (FF 43.5 million). The 3 agreements are for agricultural, railways and communications development projects. [Paris AFP in French 1740 GMT 19 May 80 AE]

ZAIRE'S ILLEGAL DIAMOND MINING--Mbuji-Mayi, 19 May (AZAP)--A regional commission in charge of the fight against illegal diamond mining will soon be constituted and will comprise heads of the diamond producing localities, representatives of the Bakwanga Mining Company (MIBA) and the law enforcement authorities. This resolution was unanimously adopted by the participants in the recent agricultural conference held in Mwene-Ditu from 12 to 17 May. [Kinshasa AZAP in French 1614 GMT 19 May 80 AB]

GUINEA

REACTION TO PLOT AGAINST SEKOU TOURE CONTINUES

AB201733 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] The treacherous act committed on the evening of 14 May has provoked deep indignation among the militant people of Guinea so they are determined to wipe out the insult entirely. Everywhere in the 35 federations of the party state, in the offices of the district revolutionary authorities and of the local revolutionary authorities' information meetings are being organized for the militants by the officials of the party state with a view to finding and punishing the plotters suitably.

Consequently, at (Verekore), the general revolutionary commissioner, Comrade Abdullai Barry, met all the militant officials of the urban center on 17 May at the "Maison du Parti." He informed them about the recent subversive imperialist moves directed on 14 May against the Guinean revolution and its leader, the supreme leader of the revolution, Comrade President Ahmed Sekou Toure. In view of these imperialist moves directed against our leader and our national sovereignty, the general revolutionary commissioner of (Verekore) reaffirmed the readiness of the activists of the federation in his district to give up their lives in order to save that of Ahmed Sekou Toure, the active fighter for the liberty and the personality of the Guinean people.

After condemning this act of banditry on the part of the imperialists, Dr Abdullai Barry called on the party activists of (Verekore), in particular those of [word indistinct], to reinforce their vigilance and revolutionary firmness in order to find and immobilize all the counterrevolutionary agents in order that the revolution that Comrade President Ahmed Sekou Toure leads with self-denial and clearsightedness may live and prosper.

In the interior, solidarity marches and other popular demonstrations were held [words indistinct] imperialists. Thus on 18 May at Kankan the activists of the three markets and corporations of the urban center organized a large revolutionary march of solidarity and faithfulness. The revolutionary marchers, who marched from the former airport to the independence square via the central market, sang songs in praise of the Guinean Democratic Party. Brandishing pestles, cutlasses and other instruments, the activists of Kankan marched in spite of the (?foul weather) in order to reaffirm their desire to defend the Guinean revolution and its beloved guide, President Ahmed Sekou Toure. The march ended with a huge popular meeting held at the independence square of Kankan under the auspices of the regional committee of women.

On this occasion Comrade Mariam Sylla, president of the Regional Committee of Women thanked the militants for their unprecedented massive participation in the march which serves as the concrete proof of their unflinching support for the PDG [Guinean Democratic Party] and its secretary general, the supreme leader of the revolution, President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

The president of the Regional Committee of Women of Kankan called for more vigilance everywhere even in homes in order to detect the internal enemies. Finally, she reminded the militants of Kankan of the freedom that can be achieved through hard work in accordance with the revolution.

In accordance with the recommendations made during the recent youth information meeting, the students of the first, second and third cycles in the secondary schools of Conakry-I have been organizing general assemblies on the need for revolutionary vigilance, since Monday, 19 May 1980. These general assemblies, which are chaired by delegations from the regional committees of the JRDA [Youth of the African Democratic Revolution], are marked by the determination of the youth to unmask and punish the criminals of 14 May 1980.

In fact after receiving the delegates and hearing information on the assassination attempt of 14 May 1980 at the "Palais du Peuple," our young students swore an oath to increase their vigilance in order to detect and immobilize the imperialist agents camouflaged within the ranks of the party. Also, the general assemblies in the secondary schools of Conakry-I drew up operational measures within the framework of a systematic and methodical inquiry aimed at the final destruction of counterrevolutionaries.

LIBERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER MATTHEWS ADDRESSES DIPLOMATS

AB202057 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] Foreign Minister G. Bacchus Matthews has called on the diplomatic corps not to overreact or underreact to the change of circumstances in Liberia. He also called on them to realize the priorities of the Liberian people which he said must be met against the background of the vulnerabilities and weakness which have plagued Liberia for so long.

During his informal talks with diplomats shortly before his departure to Nigeria and Ethiopia, Minister Matthews assured them that People's Redemption Council would insure the safety of all foreign nationals within the country and respect the human rights of all Liberians.

According to a release from the Foreign Ministry issued in Monrovia today, Minister Matthews urged the diplomats to help the Liberian people to build a new society based on justice, equality and human dignity for all. The dean of the diplomatic corps, Louis Dollot of France, thanked Minister Matthews for the opportunity provided them to exchange views with him and said the diplomatic corps was appreciative of the new change in relations between them and the Foreign Ministry.

'UNDISCIPLINED' STUDENTS TO FACE STRONG ACTION

AB202014 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] The minister of education, Dr Henry B. Fahnbulleh, has said that his ministry was ready to take strong action against undisciplined students who try to undermine the revolution. The minister made the remark when he met the administrative and a student delegation from the Booker Washington Institute, BWI, at the Education Ministry said.

Dr Fahnbulleh, however, said that his ministry will cooperate with disciplined revolutionary students toward the improvement of quality education in Liberia. The acting president of the student council in BWI, Mr (Allio Bullafalley) thanked Minister Fahnbulleh for his continuous dedication and efforts in improving the educational system in the country. Among other things resolved during the meeting was the students right to freedom of speech, assembly, and organization.

TOGO

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES ECOWAS DEFENSE PACT PROPOSALS

AB201600 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 20 May 80

[Text] President Gnassingbe Eyadema received Mr Diaby Ouattara, executive secretary of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States]. The visit of Mr Ouattara is in connection with preparations being made for the summit of member states of ECOWAS which will be held at the end of this month in Lome. The executive secretary said he reviewed certain organization problems with the president and took the opportunity to pay him a courtesy call. Talking about the ECOWAS summit, Mr Ouattara emphasized that he looks forward to it with a lot of optimism because it will be the occasion to assess the progress made by the community since the last summit in Dakar.

Since going into operation a few years ago, the vast West African economic community stands out as the best hope for promoting development and cooperation in all fields of economic activity, to keep our subregion out of armed conflicts which might divert it from its goal of integrated development within this dynamic community, the member country heads of state want to set up a pact of defense and nonaggression. This will be the major preoccupation of the next ECOWAS summit in Lome. One still remembers that during the last summit in Dakar, Senegal and our country had put forward proposals on this question. These proposals are being thoroughly examined by a technical commission made up of chiefs of general staff and foreign ministers of ECOWAS, who began a meeting an hour ago in our capital.

In his opening speech our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo, stated the following in particular: In hosting the meeting of the special ministerial commission on the ECOWAS defense pact proposals, the Togolese people, their party and the founding president of the RPT [Togolese People's Rally] are happy to hail the participants as men determined to lay the foundations for the protection of our community against all sorts of covetousness, whatever its source. As a matter of fact, said Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo, the economic community of West Africa is a very important institution and an indispensable link for African unity. The heads of state understood this perfectly last month in Lagos when they stressed the need to set up similar institutions everywhere in Africa as the foundation of the future economic community of Africa. This means, Mr Ahianyo added, that ECOWAS is a vital economic community for our subregion just as an industrial corporation would be vital for a state. Therefore, it deserves careful protection; it needs vigilant caretakers.

Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo further indicated that the current meeting is aimed at examining this protection and to set up instruments for its supervision, so that our community is under protection against acts of sabotage by troublemakers from inside and outside.

Since last year's summit in Dakar, the experts, appointed from a group of five countries, have worked hard to produce a working document with remarkably realistic proposals. The foreign ministers will use this document to work out concrete proposals on the ECOWAS defense pact--important tool for the construction of this community--to be submitted to the heads of state.